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Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanon Committee Meets, Issues Statement 21 Jun

LD2206045689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The Arab three-man committee on the Lebanese crisis started meeting this afternoon at the Jenan al-Mithaq Residence. The foreign ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco—Boualem Bessaieh, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Abdellatif Filali—busily focused on assessing the results of their contacts in the Lebanese, Arab, and international arena, with a view to begin the working plan set up by the three leaders [Benjedid, Hassan II, and Fahd]. The foreign ministers will also determine the next moves to achieve an Arab contribution to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

We have just learned that the committee ended its meeting and issued a final statement which said in particular:

The Arab three-man ministerial committee held a meeting on 21 June 1989 in Algiers to assess the results of the contacts and consultations which it carried out in conformity with the directives it had received in Rabat from His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco, Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Saud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. These contacts and consultations are within the framework of the implementation of the working plan of the higher Arab three-man committee, the first phase of which was the fulfillment of the security conditions in Lebanon, which are necessary for the implementation of the other political phases of the working plan to ensure an Arab contribution to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

From this premise, the Arab three-man committee made a comprehensive evaluation of the international meetings thus far and the contacts carried out in Lebanon by the special envoy of the higher Arab committee. The results of its mission will be submitted to their majesties and excellencies the members of the higher Arab committee, especially in connection with the consolidation of the phase of the fulfillment of the security conditions in Lebanon and the preparation for a national dialogue between the Lebanese to realize national concord in Lebanon.

APU Meetings in Abu Dhabi Conclude 21 Jun

JN2106123289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Jun (WAKH)—The fifth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] concluded its meetings today under Hilal Ahmad Lutah, Federal National Council speaker and chairman of the current APU session.

The conference stressed the need to extend material and moral support for the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] by all means and on all levels until it achieves its objectives, to give first priority to the intifadah in the seminars of the joint parliamentary dialogues, and to support the declaration of the establishment of the State of Palestine.

The conference also affirmed that any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must include the complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, through holding the international conference for peace under UN auspices and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO and the UN Security Council five permanent member states.

The conference welcomed the opening of dialogue between the United States and the PLO on the basis of supporting the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, foremost of which are their rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

The conference expressed its satisfaction with the termination of fighting between Iraq and Iran and the beginning of direct negotiations between them under the auspices of the UN secretary general. It also called for the exertion of regional and international efforts to reactivate negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and all its clauses.

The conference blessed and expressed support for the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee to settle the Lebanese crisis on the basis of Lebanon's unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty over its free, independent state on its national soil. The conference appealed to all the Lebanese parties to cooperate with the Arab committee and to help it in its task so that it will be able to save Lebanon from its ordeal.

In its statement, the conference recommended the promotion of the Arab-African parliamentary ties, the holding of the fifth conference of the Arab-African parliamentary dialogue in an Arab state next year, and the invitation of some African parliamentary delegations to visit the Arab states. It also recommended the bolstering of ties and relations with the Latin American parliaments, the approval of a working plan for the Arab-Euro dialogue, and the participation in the annual meeting of the Arab-Euro parliamentary dialogue that will be held in Dublin in September.

The conference decided to hold the Arab parliamentary conference on housing and development in Damascus in September, contribute to the preservation of nature and the environment, conclude an Arab charter to organize cooperation in this field, to hold the next APU conference in Algiers early next year, and to approve the APU plan for the current year.

'Reservations' on Resolutions

JN2206172889 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 12

[Text] The Syrian and Libyan delegations announced during the final session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] conference in Abu Dhabi yesterday their reservations on the resolutions adopted by the APU conference with regard to the Palestine question—resolutions that include any form of recognition of Israel. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, head of the Syrian parliamentary delegation participating in the conference, said that Israel will neither withdraw from the occupied Arab territory nor will it recognize the State of Palestine.

The two delegations also expressed reservations on the resolutions on the Iraq-Iran war and Iran's inhumane treatment of Iraqi prisoners.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC, Knesset Members Reportedly Meet 22 Jun

JN2206183789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli parliamentarians and Palestine National Council [PNC] representatives sat at one table for the first time today and held official talks at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The council's Political Committee, which organized this meeting, hopes that it will spread an atmosphere of trust conducive to holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Participating in this meeting were representatives of the 23 member states of the Council of Europe as well as representatives of Egypt and Morocco and two Soviet parliamentarians. The PNC delegation comprised Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Foreign and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, and Shawqi Armali, head of the PLO delegation to the EC in Brussels. The Israeli Knesset delegated its two accredited observers to the Council of Europe. They are 'Uzi Landau from the Likud and Shevan Weiss from the Labor Party.

Abu-Sharif Cited on Syrian-U.S. Dialogue

JN2206160989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Jun 89 p 19

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Tunis—AL-ITTIHAD—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has described the Syrian authorities' releasing some Palestinian detainees and giving the green light to reconstruction of the refugee camps in Beirut before winter as "positive signs" paving the way for a broader and more comprehensive agreement.

In remarks to AL-ITTIHAD in Tunis, Abu-Sharif said that these positive signs will greatly facilitate the sitting of the Palestinian and Syrian sides at one table to draw up a working paper with clear, constant, and practical bases to liberate the land from its usurpers. However, Abu-Sharif declined to divulge the date of a Palestinian delegation's trip to Damascus, indicating that everything is possible as long as the Casablanca summit has paved the way for it.

Abu-Sharif affirmed that the Syrian initiative is positive "and continues to be so until all detainees are released and Sabra, Shatila, and Burg al-Barajinah camps are reconstructed."

Abu-Sharif described the recent U.S.-Palestinian dialogue session as positive and one that achieved progress. However, he explained that the progress is slow and is not keeping pace with the systematized Israeli repression and terrorism. He said, "This, with the elapse of time, creates a huge gap that derails the dialogue." Abu-Sharif explained that the latest dialogue focused on elections details. He said there is nothing called an Israeli plan and added that Shamir is throwing dust in people's eyes.

He said: We said yes to democratic and free elections that secure our people's right to choose what they want freely and later enable our people to choose their representatives at the Palestine National Council within a series of steps leading to the establishment of the independent Palestinian State.

Abu-Sharif explained the nature of these elections. He said if the elections are a first step, the Israeli withdrawal is a medium stage, which should be completely supervised by UN forces. He said that the next stage will be an international conference, within which final issues leading to the Palestinian State are discussed.

Abu-Sharif called on the Arab nation to move at the current stage in particular to support the intifadah [uprising] and confront the Israeli occupation's daily bloody crimes against the Palestinian people.

Abu-Iyad on Outlook for Talks With U.S., Syria

PM2206110489 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 16 Jun 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-MADINAH: We Hope To Resume Dialogue With Syria"]

[Excerpts] AL-MADINAH Bureau in Tunis, Agencies—In the next few days Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with U.S. President George Bush's envoy during the envoy's tour of capitals in the region including Cairo, Amman, Damascus, and Tel Aviv. In a statement to AL-MADINAH [Fatah Central Committee member] Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) described the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as good and part of the political victories achieved by the PLO. But he pointed out that the dialogue is slow because of Washington's inability to free its Middle East policy from Israel's and the Zionist lobby's pressure. [passage omitted]

In his statement to AL-MADINAH Abu-Iyad said that some stances of President Bush's administration are more understanding and advanced those those of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration, and emphasized that the PLO refuses to bargain or negotiate over the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It also categorically rejects separating the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territories].

Salah Khalaf affirmed that the Casablanca summit dealt with all the important Arab issues in a realistic and practical way.

He said that if that summit's resolutions are implemented, they would play an important and positive role, especially as it adopted a comprehensive Arab plan for moves to resolve the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf expressed the hope that the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue would resume soon, pointing out that many of the disputed issues between the two sides were settled at the Casablanca summit and Syria agreed to all the summit resolutions so that the political dispute no longer stands. But there are still issues relating to past procedures and coordination. These issues can be discussed frankly and fraternally in order to heal the wound. He added that our hearts are open to Syria, and if it moves one step toward us, we will move two steps toward it.

PFLP-GC Identified as Lockerbie Bombers

LD2006224689 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2216 GMT 20 Jun 89

[By Paul Fuller, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] Police investigating the Lockerbie bombing are certain they have identified the perpetrators of Britain's biggest mass murder, according to a report in tomorrow's edition of THE SCOTSMAN. The newspaper says investigators have assembled a mass of evidence which leaves them in no doubt that the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command [PFLP-GC] carried out the attack on the Pan Am flight 103 on December 21 last year. The newspaper says that although the group and the motive have been unofficially canvassed before, it is only now that the police are certain they have identified the bombers.

The report says that the international hunt for the killers—led by Scottish police and centred at Lockerbie—"has achieved this dramatic breakthrough as a result of remarkable forensic work and a painstaking investigation." THE SCOTSMAN also claims to reveal the motive for the bombing—a revenge attack for the shooting down of an Iranian civil airliner last July by the United States warship, the USS Vincennes. Pan Am flight 103 was blown up as it crossed the Scottish border, killing 259 passengers and crew and 11 Lockerbie residents.

PLO Report Assesses U.S. Policy

JN2206114089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Jun 89 p 29

[By Fathi al-Barqawi; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tunis—The third Palestinian-U.S. meeting, which was held in Tunis on 8 June, did not announce anything regarding the results that had been reached, in light of the the possible meeting between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. envoy to the Middle East Dennis Ross. The latter is expected to convey to 'Arafat a memorandum including the U.S. Administration's answers to the PLO's questions.

AL-ANBA' has obtained a report prepared by the PLO on 5 June, 3 days before the Palestinian-U.S. meeting, in which it assesses the U.S. policy, especially in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's speech before AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] on 22 May. The report includes several important elements. The first of these elements is the mode of action the PLO leadership has begun to adopt—a mode that proves how mature and knowledgeable this leadership has become, in addition to its tactics that have begun to bear fruit on several levels.

This report is not a composition made up of empty words, but is derived from established facts, with the aim of imposing other facts. Perhaps, the new Palestinian method, which the PLO began to employ in its dialogue with the U.S. Administration, is what makes this report—assessment—important regarding the conclusions it has arrived at.

The report requests the Palestinian negotiators to pay attention to remarks that should be taken into consideration. "We should not only answer the U.S.-Israeli questions, but from now on, we should pose questions and wait for answers." This statement, which ended the report—the assessment—gives a good explanation of the declared statements by several Palestinian officials regarding the contents of the Palestinian working paper that was presented to the U.S. delegation. In general, this working paper includes a set of clever questions that require answers and on which it is difficult to be evasive.

The Palestinian report describes the current U.S. Administration's policy as having dynamism that is "distinguished" from other previous administrations regarding the Middle East crisis. The report also describes this dynamism as not being conceived on the spur of the moment, but which is linked to international developments and the new relations in the international order which were established following the Soviet initiatives, the important change in the mechanism of the Soviet role on the international level, and how this is reflected on U.S.-Soviet relations toward regional conflicts and the need to settle them.

The report pinpointed several distinctive features of the current U.S. policy:

—The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue "which the United States needs and on which it insists for the political dimensions it entails."

—Baker's statements on the PLO, particularly his statement to the Congressional Appropriations Committee on 22 March that Israel may find itself compelled to hold a dialogue with the PLO

—Baker's speech before AIPAC on 22 May.

—President George Bush's statements on the need to terminate the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

—The meeting between Shevardnadze and Baker in Moscow and the reference to their agreement on the need to act and form an experts committee to discuss the Middle East cause (which met on the 15th of this month).

— The report by Ross' boss on 25 April on the mechanism for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Through the assessment which we are discussing, the PLO was concerned about two important aspects: The first is Baker's speech and the second is how to find an exemplary method for dialogue.

The PLO believes that in addition to the developments and changes which took place in international relations, there are six reasons which recently made the U.S. Administration change its policy in the region:

1. The attempt to regain the political initiative and to impose the vanguard role of the U.S. stand with respect to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. The containment of the Soviet role, particularly following Shevardnadze's tour and his important speech in Cairo.

3. The curtailment of West Europe's role toward the Middle East cause and attaching the West European stand to the U.S. stand in confronting the Arab and Soviet role.

4. The increasing importance of the Palestinian factor in international politics dealing with the Middle East in light of the perpetuation of the intifadah [uprising] and the comprehensive repercussions it has had on the regional and international level, the political development in the Palestinian stand and its incessant dynamism, and the retrogradation or the termination of the Jordanian option, specifically after the disengagement.

5. a. The possibility of the U.S. Administration's reaching an understanding with the current trend that prevails among world Jewish circles on the need to act to save Israel's reputation and status in light of its failure to impose its policy through the military option and its being portrayed as a country which violates human rights, not to mention the political crisis within Israel itself on the level of its leaders and in terms of the political relations within the society.

b. The failure of the "military option" might be an incentive for replacing it with the "economic option" in the field of hegemony and control. Indications in this respect can be found in Baker's speech when he affirmed that the peace process is vital for the future of Israel whose people are skilled, intelligent, and have technological know-how and his calling on the Arabs to terminate the economic boycott of Israel. Perhaps Ross was more explicit when he said that the positive aspects that are in favor of the settlement of the conflict consist of the burdensome domestic issues, particularly economic issues the Arabs are experiencing, which would make them take practical and realistic steps.

6. The U.S. national interest politically and economically in tackling the hotbed of tension in the Middle East shows that "the cost account is no longer in favor of the perpetuation of this tension."

How did the PLO leadership view the speech made by the U.S. secretary of state and what was important in it?

As for its timing, the speech came to draw and formulate the political position at the beginning of office for a new administration and this will give it the opportunity to move. Also, this speech was made after Baker's visit to Moscow on 10 May and the agreement to form the committee of experts.

As for the venue, the speech was made before AIPAC—a fact which drew the attention of most political observers. This suggests that an agreement in principle was reached between the U.S. Administration and the Jewish lobby on the future U.S. course and on the language of the speech, which all commentaries described as harsh, daring, and even rare when compared to the language of previous administrations.

The speech also gave a momentum to the process of political settlement. This represents an advantage over the previous administrations, which used to make speeches and take stands without momentum.

The signs which reached the PLO and which it considered as a momentum are based on the fact that the U.S. secretary of state said that the Middle East is approaching a very important phase and is getting nearer to the peace process, and that "now is the suitable time to move" toward serious talks to create the climate necessary for a sustained peace process. Therefore, Baker calls on peoples of the Middle East to join the world, which is changing toward peace after the acuteness of many long-standing problems in other parts began to lessen.

The Palestinian report notices that this move and progress in the peace process, as announced by Baker, is connected to a productive U.S.-Israeli partnership achieved through consultations rather than confrontation with his understanding of Israel's caution due to its geo-political position and history. However, he calls on it not to let caution paralyze it.

The PLO has six remarks on the features of the current U.S. Administration's policy when compared to that of previous administrations:

1. There is no significant change in the basic principles of the U.S. stand toward the political settlement either in substance or mechanism.

2. There is an improvement in the understanding of the final settlement, which is relatively different from the previous U.S. stand. The current stand calls for "an autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the Palestinians which is accepted by the Palestinians, Israel, and Jordan and which provides adequate room for realizing their full political rights," while the previous administration defined this in connection with Jordan. Hence, the current administration left this option open and not mandatory.

The PLO cites a report by Dennis Ross from which the stand of the current U.S. Administration toward the Jordanian option can be observed. Ross says: "The step—the disengagement [of legal and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank]—has meaning for those who were convinced of the existence of a pure Jordanian option. They must face the truth that this is no longer an option." However, the stand toward the state and self-determination remains the same.

The questions put to the American Administration and the answers still being awaited were formulated against this background.

The first question asks why the United States is opposed to a Palestinian state and self-determination. And from the third observation of the general features of the new American policy of bringing the Palestinian element to the fore through underscoring a development in Palestinian positions and urging the Israelis to extend their hands to the Palestinians as a party worthy of political rights in return for urging the Palestinians to convince the Israelis that no one but they can or will act on their behalf. [sentence as published] And the Palestinians' right to define the requisite form and elements of the "election" initiative and calling for a political dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied land. [sentence as published]

The PLO, however, notes that in their public utterances, U.S. officials do not specifically mention the PLO, thus prompting it to ask the following question: Why does the United States not officially and directly recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

The second question is on the elections. The Palestinians find it intersting that the U.S. Administration perceives the elections as part of an overall settlement and not a discrete process.

The American secretary sees the elections as an extremely positive step toward feasible negotiations. Ross views the elections as a bridge between the status quo and direct negotiations. And here the PLO asks the following question: Where is the integrated definition between the measures and the political goals of the Palestinian people? [sentence as published]

Baker's statement touched on a preparatory stage preceding negotiations, whereby bilateral dialogues are initiated and the Palestinians and Israelis encouraged to consider practical steps to resolve their conflict and to move to create an auspicious atmosphere for sustained negotiations.

Here lies the definition of the Palestinian side's understanding of preparatory action compatible with the Palestinian posture on the preparation issue its use as a means of exerting pressure on the rulers of Israel. Consequently, another question may be put to the U.S. Administration: Why has Washington refused a four-party meeting grouping the Palestinians, the Israelis, the Soviets, and the Americans? And why does it refuse the appointment of a UN representative to help create the proper climate before negotiations.

Within this context, the PLO has many comments. The current U.S. Administration ignores the refugee issue, although previous administrations raised it. The most important instance was in 1975 during the Kissinger era when Assistant Secretary of State Saunders told a congressional subcommittee that any solution in the region will face two problems:

—Ownership claims by the inhabitants of areas occupied before 1948 of the land that now has become the State of Israel.
—The conviction of some people that they have the right to return within any settlement.

Saunders also referred to UN Resolution 194 of 1948, which was supported by the United States.

The Palestinian question in this regard is: Why has this issue been abadoned now, and what is the U.S. stand on it?

Regarding phraseology, the PLO notices that previous U.S. Administrations, even during the Reagan-Shultz era, used phrases like the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the Palestinian people. However, the current administration talks only about full political rights.

The PLO asks the current U.S. Administration: What are full political rights? Who are the Palestinians? Why this abandonment of the phrases legitimate rights and Palestinian people.

The United States prompts the Palestinian leadership to take a certain course in advance because of its stand that a solution is essentially based on supporting Israel and partnership with it. Consequently, the United States acts as a party to the conflict. The question is: How can a party to the conflict be a broker, or an "objective broker?"

In addition to these major queries, the Palestinian working paper includes a group of quick additional questions, including:

—In the prenegotiation period, why do the United States and Israel reject a Palestinian-Israeli meeting between the PLO and the Israeli Government?
—What will the U.S. stand be if Israel insists on its stand on the election issue?
—What are the security guarantees Israel will demand from the Palestinian people and their state?
—Does, say, a disarmed Palestinian State really pose a threat to Israel and U.S. interests, and if so how?
—How long will the preparatory period and the process of a political settlement take?

The PLO concludes that this U.S. policy is not final and that there are many open doors that can be used, especially in light of the continuation of the intifadah; the vitality of the Palestinian position and moves; the creation of an Arab boosting mechanism to make a maximum use of the Arab summit committee; Palestinian-Soviet coordination; and promotion of Palestinian-European relations, particularly with France.

Action inside the United States must be clearly and specifically formulated in a manner allowing for creating a force capable of influencing the U.S. Administration and looking for action formulas inside the American Jewish community in particular.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly Sends Warning to Numayri

JN2206162289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 26

[Text] Cairo—Well informed Egyptian sources have confirmed the report that President Mubarak has addressed a written warning to former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to stop his political practices and propaganda campaign hostile to the Sudanese regime. Otherwise, Mubarak warned, the right to political asylum granted to him will be withdrawn and he should leave Egypt.

The Egyptian sources added that Mubarak mentioned this warning during his 2-hour meeting with the Sudanese journalists union delegation recently.

It was learned that Mustafa al-Faqi, chief of President Mubarak's office for information, conveyed the message to Numayri.

Mubarak Speaks on Ties With Sudan, Libya

NC2206204789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has congratulated members of the new Consulative Council on winning the people's confidence and wished them a successful working session. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak answered questions from Consultative Council members. Speaking on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Mubarak said: I advise those who are trying to foment sedition betwen the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples to refrain. The fraternal Sudanese people, he stressed, know what genuine fraternity and loyalty are and only the truth will remain.

On Egyptian-Libyan relations, Mubarak said: We are beginning a new stage between Egypt and Libya. There are positive steps on this path, he said. On the results of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] meeting, President Mubarak praised the results achieved at the quadripartite ACC summit in Alexandria. He added: We are proceeding with a quiet and well-studied plan so as to achieve progress and to avoid any setbacks in the future. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Favors Direct Talks on Palestinian Issue

NC2206204589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the best solution for the Palestinian issue is for all parties to sit at the negotiating table to gain time. He said that the ongoing fighting is useless. This came in a statement by President Mubarak following a tour of the 6 Uktuber City, in response to a question on the increasing crisis in the occupied Arab territory. [passage omitted]

Intervention To Halt Israeli Measures Urged

NC2206103989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0619 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—Cairo papers today appealed to all countries for an immediate intervention to stop the hideous massacres, which the Israeli occupation authorities are perpetrating against children and young men in the occupied Arab territories, urging them not to be satisfied with mere statements of condemnation.

In their editorials today, the papers assert that if the international community fails to obtain an interntional UN Security Council condemnation of the crimes, whichi Israel insists on committing against the Palestinian people because of the protection that Washington grants to its ally, it is the duty of the Arab world to initiate a campaign to expose Israel's inhuman practices and to reveal Israel's true image to international world public opinion.

AL-AKHBAR newspaper called for an urgent meeting of Arab information ministers as soon as possible to plan a strategy for a media campaign. Arab embassies and Arab and friendly media will participate in a well-studied and integrated plan to shake and awaken consciences everywhere to make them condemn the arbitrary Israeli practices.

The paper noted Egypt's move on behalf of the world's conscience to warn Israel against the escalation of its brutal practices and desperate attempts to put down the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

In conclusion, the paper says these measures eventually will only add to the impediments on the road of peace, which everyone demands.

In an editorial entitled "Plight of the Palestinian Childhood," AL-AHRAM newspaper calls for an international conference to be devoted to the plight of the Palestinian childhood. The paper also calls for mobilizing childhood organizations and world childhood and youth forces so that they may adopt a unified stand against the massacre of children and youth being perpetrated in the occupied land by the occupation forces.

The paper points out that despite international resolutions and accords urging observance of the rights of civilians in general, which are aimed at Israel in particular, acts of oppression are increasing especially against children, and the suppressive measures against them are continuing in an unprecedented manner in modern history.

The paper notes that the ugly, gloomy, and full record of these measures is known to the investigative authorities, various organizations, and media organs. What is exasperating and angering in all of this, the paper adds, is

that what is taking place is not an actual war that would have constituted a pretext for these bloody measures, which aim to eliminate and uproot the base of the Palestinian future.

Ghali Interviewed on Palestinian Issue, Israel

NC2206111089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—In an interview with the paper AL-JUMHURIYAH Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state and foreign affairs, has said that Egypt's foreign policy seeks to create some kind of balance and integration between the Arab world and Africa. [passage omitted]

Ghali affirmed that the concentration on Africa in Egyptian foreign policy will not lessen our interest in the importance of the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on his visit to Israel, Ghali said it is not true that the visit was a surprise. He noted that it was intended to advise Israel of all the positive developments in the stand of the Arab side so that Israel may respond to this development and adopt a new stand. This positiveness, he said, is apparent in the Algiers Palestine National Council resolutions and the Rabat Arab summit's adoption of these resolutions and, in turn, the adoption of a strategy of peace and dialogue.

He pointed out that during this visit he had sensed that the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is still wide and that intense diplomatic activity on the part of the United States and the United Nations is necessary to narrow the gap between the two sides.

Ghali urged Israel to initiate a trust-building process by halting its oppressive measures, granting the Palestinians more political freedom, and halting the deportation of the Palestinians from their land.

He noted that the process of building confidence is not a substitute for an international conference or a final settlement. Rather, he added, it is a step to improve the situation inside the occupied territories in order to build bridges of trust in order to pave the way for an international conference.

Ghali asserted that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories has indeed affected the balance within Israel, where there is division within the Likud bloc. One party is advocating elections and searching for an alternative Palestinian group that would hold negotiations with it in lieu of the PLO, while another more radical party rejects the elections and wants to quell the intifadah by means of suppression.

He said: Let us wait for 3 July, when the Likud conference convenes to decide the issue.

Ghali pointed out that a similar dispute also exists within the Israeli Labor Party. One group of the party views that the elections are insufficient and that it is necessary to deal with the PLO and grant the Palestinians the right of self-determination, while another group refuses to hold a dialogue with the Palestinians.

He said that Egypt is willing to help ease these contradictions in view of its good contacts with both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Ghali explained that the tough Israeli position against the Palestinian peace onslaught is due to fear, mistrust, and lack of confidence on the part of the Israelis, and he expressed his optimism that peace will eventually prevail in the region.

He noted that the Middle East issue now has no priority in the two superpowers' policies now that other priorities have emerged such as the East-West dialogue, the presence of the Soviets and Americans in Europe, and arms reduction. Therefore, he said, the Middle East issue can wait despite its importance.

Dr Ghali praised the continuation of the American-Palestinian dialogue despite pressure on the U.S. Administration by Israel and its supporters. This, he added, indicates the U.S. Administration's desire to play a role in the Middle East peace process.

He pointed out that the current U.S. Administration's use of the veto against Israeli oppressive acts twice in less than 6 months does not constitute a contradiction in its position toward this issue because the foreign policy of a major power moves in more than one direction.

Ghali said we must look positively to the rapprochement between the two superpowers, which has led to the settlement of several regional conflicts. He noted that this confirms that international detente between the two powers will help in efforts to settle the Middle East crisis.

Shardi on Consultative Council Elections

JN2206155689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jun 89 pp 1, 6

[Article by chief editor Mustafa Shardi: "Once Again, Beware of Appointment"]

[Text] The news coming from the lobbies of the National Democratic Party says that some names of leading opposition party figures have actually been listed as members to be appointed in the Consultative Council. These bits of news also say that contacts have been held between the government and the opposition candidates to secure their prior approval and that some of these figures have already consented.

I cannot say for sure whether or not this news is true. However, it is both certain and logical that the government will attempt to pack the Consultative Council with

figures belonging to the Egyptian opposition parties to complete the democratic decor and cover up the ugliest election scandal not only in Egyptian history but in the history of world parliamentary elections. The government seeks to portray the sham council as one that brings together the majority and the opposition, thus realizing the multiparty system provided for in the Constitution.

There is no doubt that the names of Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabahi [leader of the opposition Ummah Party] is included on this list, which will be announced within hours; whether his name tops the list or comes at the end is not an important issue. What is important is that his name is on the list and that he represents an opposition party, although he has for a long time moved himself away from the opposition ranks and chosen to place himself under the government's cloak.

What I would like to say is that Shaykh al-Sabahi will not represent the opposition in the real sense of the word and that he will not be able to convince foreign reporters of the existence of opposition in the Consultative Council. Besides, he will not be able to deceive the embassies, which are following the situation closely and which send their daily reports to the capitals of their own countries, which they represent here in Egypt.

Because the government is aware of this fact, our information says that its men are exploring the opposition ranks in hopes of hammering out agreements with some well known or even unkown figures with the aim of securing their consent to be appointed to the Consultative Council.

I do not believe that the government's men will find anybody in the Wafd Party's ranks willing to accept appointment, as the party leadership adopted an irreversible decision on the issue the same night it decided to boycott the council elections. The punishment for anyone whose acts violate this decision is dismissal from the party. This means that if the government finds anybody within the Wafd Party's ranks to accept its offer, it will be immediately surprised to find that he represents nobody except himself. He will not be able to claim that he is an opposition figure.

The same applies to the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], which boycotted the elections because it has no faith in the Consultative Council itself. Then, it will be out of the question for the NPUG to allow any of its members to accept a government appointment.

The alliance embracing the Socialist Labor Party, the Liberal Socialist Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood remains. This alliance is well aware, perhaps more than any other Egyptian opposition party, of the facts pertaining to the comprehensive rigging that has not allowed a single candidate of their parties to win the elections and enter the Consultative Council through the ballot box and in response to the masses' will. Will this alliance then enter this sham council in accordance with a decision made by the government that has stabbed it and the masses in the back?

From the outset, I would like to say that each party is free to make its own decisions. However, very important remarks have to be made. The first is that the participation by any Egyptian citizen, be he an independent or a member of the opposition parties, in the Consultative Council right now through appointment is, in my opinion, tantamount to an implicit approval of the ugly rigging that has plagued the elections. This will also mean that they are cooperating and sitting under the same roof with members who occupied their council seats against the nation's will. In all frankness, this will result in an inescapable national and popular condemnation targeting those who might accept such an appointment.

The second remark is that any party, be it one of those forming the alliance or any other party that allows any of its members to accept appointment to the Consultative Council without making a strong and irreversible decision on this member will not deserve the confidence and respect of the masses. Such a party will never be viewed as eager to preserve and safeguard the higher interests of the homeland. Such a party will also find that it will be forsaken by the free elements of the people and that its structure will irremediably collapse.

The third remark is that the government does not offer anybody any post, whether in the Consultative Council or anywhere else, for his efficiency, respect for his position among the citizens, or the benefit of his experience or wise opinions within the walls of the council. No, the validity of this offer is contingent on this member's allegiance to the government and his continued loyalty to the regime before any other party.

Recent history provides us with eloquent examples corroborating this bitter fact. In the People's Assembly elections of 1984, some opposition parties were unable to obtain the required votes in accordance with the party list election system, which violates the Constitution. A decision was issued at the time appointing some of these party members to the People's Assembly. Eng Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Socialist Labor Party, was one of those appointed. Shukri's acceptance of the appointment deeply angered the party's supporters, who have concluded that their party's standing among people has taken a nosedive. When the government saw Eng Ibrahim Shukri act as a real opposition figure in the People's Assembly, it showed no reluctance to ask some of its writers to blast him and remind him that his presence in the council is the result of a favor by the government—a favor that has to be acknowledged and recognized. This means that the government showed no hesitation in reproaching an opposition leader, insinuating that it is the party that appointed him as a People's Assembly

member. These writers said that the mere appointment by the government requires that the appointed member show loyalty and allegiance to the party that offered this "handout!"

Once again, I say to all opposition figures: Beware of this trap, reject this "handout," and know that it is correct to stand with the people all the time and not under the government's cloak.

Libya

Syria's Al-Shar' on Working Visit

Arrives in Tripoli 22 Jun

LD2206160589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, 22 June (JANA)—Brother Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister in sister Syria and the delegation accompanying him arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2206211889 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs in fraternal Syria. During the meeting, Faruq al-Shar' conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concerning bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. The visit is part of the regular contacts between the two fraternal countries.

Delivers Al-Asad's Message

JN2306055389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, last night received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Tripoli.

During the meeting, Al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which deals with current Arab conditions.

The meeting was attended by Brother Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Al-Shar' arrived in Tripoli at noon yesterday on a working visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Uganda President's Message

LD2206212289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has recieved brother Ibrahim Mukiibi, the Ugandan interior minister, who conveyed to him a message from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Industry Protocol Signed With Malta

LD2206181289 Tripoli JANA in English 1648 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Valetta, al-Sayf [June] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning signing took place on a protocol meeting of the 8th session of the joint Libyan Arab-Maltese committee in the capital of Malta Valetta.

The meeting was signed by the secretary of the general people's committee for Strategic Industries and John Dali the parliamentary secretary for industry affairs in Malta and included agreement upon backing and advancing joint cooperation between both friendly countries in the fields of industry, transport, communications, education, information, culture, commercial exchange, social security, joint investments and oil.

Both sides expressed in the protocol their pleasure at the implimenting the agreement on travel using identity cards for both countries' citizens since al-Fatih [September] of last year.

Both sides also agreed on the need to find means to improve and ease the travel and residence of citizen from both friendly countries.

Mauritania

Government Orders End to Expulsions of Blacks

AB2206104889 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Jun 89

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The Mauritanian Government says it has issued instructions to end the expulsion of black African people to neighboring Senegal. The minister of information told the BBC that the order was contained in a circular issued a few days ago to regional governors. Reports from aid workers and refugees say some 20,000 Mauritanian nationals have been forced to leave for northern Senegal in the past month or so following widespread ethnic unrest in the two countries involving mainly Arab Mauritanians and African Senegalese. The Mauritanian authorities denied they were expelling their own citizens, saying they were repatriating Senegalese who had obtained Mauritanian nationality fraudulently.

President Taya Receives UN Secretary General

AB2206124089 Paris AFP in French 1606 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Jun (AFP)—The Mauritanian president, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, today received the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday afternoon for a 24-hour visit to Mauritania. Mr Perez de Cuellar did not make any statement at the end of the meeting which lasted for about an hour. He took the opportunity of this visit to Nouakchott to inform President Taya about the contacts he made in Morocco within the context of the UN efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Western Sahara conflict. The UN secretary general will leave Nouakchott this afternoon for Algiers.

Meanwhile, the deputy UN secretary general, Abderrahim Farah, who is accompanying Mr Perez de Cuellar, was received by the permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation, (CSMN—ruling body), Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould Ndiayane. Reliable sources stated that during the meeting Mr Farah sought information about the situation of Mauritanian refugees expelled from Senegal. Lt Col Ould Ndiayane and he visited the reception centers for refugees at the Olympic Stadium and the Nouakchott Trade Fair site.

Sudan

UK Official Denies Numayri Requested Visa

NC2206175789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1721 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] London, 22 Jun (MENA)—A responsible source at the British Foreign Office today stressed that former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has not asked the British Embassy in Cairo for a visa to travel to London. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in London, the source said that the British Embassy in Cairo has no application for a visa from Numaryi. If Numayri submits a visa application, it is natural that he would submit his application to the British Embassy in Cairo, which will refer the issue to the British Foreign Office for a decision.

Attempted Coup Causes Tension With Egypt

PM2206104689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 89 pp 1-2

['Uthman Mirghani, Muhammad Ahmad Hisham, and Al-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad report: "Coup Attempt Causes Egypt-Sudan Tension"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, London, Riyadh—The Sudanese Armed Forces confirmed yesterday that the security situation in Sudan was under full control following the coup attempt exposed last Sunday. Meanwhile, informed security sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that more civilians have been arrested, including former minister Mubarak Sinadah, Tariq Abu al-Hasan, and three of former President Ja'far Numayri's relatives. [passage omitted]

The sources confirmed that Brigadier General Salah al-Dawiyy was the leader of the aborted coup attempt. The coup plan was to order paratroopers, armored forces, and some elements of the former security organ to storm the Constituent Assembly (parliament) while Prime Minister al-Mahdi was delivering a speech there, to assassinate the political leaders, and to create a state of paralysis in Khartoum to enable former President Numayri to return and assume power. [passage omitted]

According to informed political sources, Sudan will ask Egypt to stop the hostile activities which former President Numaryi directs from his residence in Cairo. The sources warned that voices are being raised again in Khartoum for Numayri's extradition to Sudan to face trial.

They added that Egyptian-Sudanese relations may go through a difficult period, particularly with the continuing effects of the crisis resulting from statements made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, Sudanese finance and economy minister and secretary general of the Al-Ummah Party, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the cabinet held a 4-hour meeting devoted mostly to discussion of Egyptian-Sudanese relations and repercussions of the coup attempt aimed at reinstating President Numayri.

Dr Nur al-Da'im, who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone, said that the cabinet has not completed its debate on the matter but the general inclination is not to take provocative steps such as to issue a diplomatic protest or recall the ambassador; but he added: "What is needed is a pause and a high degree of frankness and sense of responsibility, because there is considerable misunderstanding in these relations."

Dr Nur al-Da'im revealed that a member of the military involved in the plot informed [the authorities] of the coup plan, its scale, and participants, and this enabled arrests to be made Sunday morning before any actual move. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahman Farah, the Sudanese prime minister's security adviser, said that the relevant authorities had been watching Numayri's activities which, he said, began earlier in Aswan. In view of this, he added, the Sudanese authorities tried to open a Sudanese consulate in Aswan, but the Egyptian Government rejected the request, despite the fact that Egypt has two consulates in the Sudanese towns of al-Abyad and Port Sudan while Sudan has only one in Alexandria.

Farah said that Egypt asked to be allowed to open a consulate in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan, in return for a Sudanese consulate in Aswan, but the Sudanese Government refused. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Democracy, Foreign Attemps

NC2306061989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, in a first statement following the announcement of the recent coup attempt in Sudan, has stressed that the security organs will not give up their responsibilities and will be firm in safeguarding democracy which the Sudanese people want. He said that certain foreign intelligence services [word indistinct] certain newspapers and recruited certain reporters to serve their goals in shaking stability and striking at democracy in Sudan. He stressed that the security organs will not make distinctions among plotters, whether they are military, civilian, or journalists, and will find no reason to exculpate a newspaper or reporters who take part in the conspiracy.

On the confiscation of the Sudanese newspaper AL-WATAN and the detention of Chief Editor Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah and the editing staff, the interior minister pointed out that the security authorities had summoned the newspaper's staff members following the coup attempt and requested that they stop publishing any propaganda statements by Numayri. The staff, however, did not respond, defied the security authorities' warning, and continued to publish interviews with Numayri. This prompted the security authorities to suspend the publication of an edition.

Army Commentary Dismisses Peace With 'Outlaws'

EA2106182089 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1324 GMT 20 Jun 89

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, God is great and glory to Sudan. Combatants, brothers, greetings to you. We pray to God for your safety and victory. The outlaw radio, broadcasting its poison from enemy Ethiopia, talks confidently about what they will achieve. Not long ago, the outlaw Yasir Arman interviewed one of his comrades in betrayal. They discussed the movement's stand on peace and its aspirations. [passage omitted]

Deng Alor, like many tribalist outlaws, wants us to return to where they come from, from a fragmented Africa of hatred and revenge. They want us to shake hands with enemy Ethiopia and normalize relations with it, to blow up the mountains of pain from time immemorial, even though natural mountains stand as barriers between us. They want us to associate with a country that exploited our involvement in war and annexed part of our country, the Elemi Triangle, with a total area of 5,400 km, which was previously administered [words indistinct] and the administrative border of which has remained on international maps. This state has allowed weapons to pass through its territory to kill people here. They want us to ally ourselves with a state which expelled our embassy from its capital because we refused to allow its plane to fly over our territory to Israel. They want us to cooperate with states which are our enemies, and at the same time they demand that we sever our relations with our brothers in religion, language, customs, and the future. They want us to go where we have nothing in common but the name of Africanism. [passage omitted]

The outlaws do not want peace as they do not know the meaning of peace. They destroy anything in their way. They would not have resorted to peace if they had not come up against the heroic Armed Forces and found that they cannot achieve their ultimate goals through force. They have, therefore, resorted to this method of political maneuver and are acting from within the ranks of the people to force the Armed Forces into a peace where we divide our arms and employment and absorb into the Armed Forces their elements who have killed and disabled our brothers, orphaned our children, and saddened our homes. They say they should be absorbed into the Armed Forces so that they can safeguard the agreement but, as Garang the agent once said, this will enable them to begin destruction and war from within to fragment the people's unity and create confusion.

Then what is next? Will they be satisfied with dominating authority and power in Sudan? I do not think so, nor do any of my brothers in the Armed Forces. Dear hero brothers, this is a bitter truth which some people are avoiding mentioning. Let those who are for making peace with the outlaws, do so. As for us in the Armed Forces, there is no peace between us and the agent outlaws.

Western Sahara

Moroccan Troops Report Clash With Polisario

LD2206195389 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The Moroccan Armed Forces have affirmed that they rebuffed an attack by the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front last night near Amgala in the northeast of the territory. According to Rabat, three Sahrawis and a Moroccan were killed. The clash occurred at the very time that the UN secretary general is touring the region to implement his peace plan. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Soviet Foreign Trade Official Arrives on Visit

LD2206210189 Kuwait KUNA in English 2018 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 22 (KUNA)—The Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations arrived here tonight on an eight-day visit.

The official, who was received at the airport by board chairman of the Kuwait Petrochemical Industries Company and the Soviet ambassador here, stated that his visit, at the head of an official delegation, is to partake in the first session of the joint Kuwaiti-Soviet economic commission.

He explained that the commission will review all domains of economic, trade, technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet guest will start his official talks on Saturday when he is scheduled to visit the Kuwait Oil Company in Ahmedi for talks with its executive.

Oman

Sultan Receives South Korean Official

JN2206150489 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id has received a letter from His Excellency President No Tae-u of the Republic of Korea [ROK]. His Highness Fahd Ibn-Mahmud al-Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received the letter when Chang Hui-so, an advisor of the Korean president, called on him this morning. He also gave him a token present from the Korean president to his majesty the sultan.

The meeting was attended by the guest's delegation and ROK Ambassador in Oman Cho Pae-sik. The meeting addressed relations between the two friendly countries and their cooperation, Asian and international developments, and matters of shared interest. The advisor of the ROK president noted the good relations between the ROK and the Sultanate of Oman and their progressive development in various areas.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Reported in 'Intensive Care'

LD2306111589 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus, June 23, IRNA—Saudi Arabian ruler Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz has been hospitalized in Riyadh and is under intensive care due to cancerous tumors in his kidneys, informed sources said here today.

The condition of the 62 year old Fahd became critical on Tuesday and he was rushed to King Faysal Hospital where an American medical team is treating him.

The American doctors are trying to transplant Fahd's kidneys, the sources added.

The Saudi Government has kept silence on Fahd's worsening condition, while the U.S. is reportedly concerned about possible developments.

Saudi Arabia came into existence in 1932, when Fahd's father 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Sa'ud, an obscure Wahhabi chieftan began seizing with British help large parts of the Arabian peninsula including Islam's holiest sites Mecca and Medina in the Hijaz.

United Arab Emirates

South Korean Envoy Brings Message 23 Jun

JN2306113889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH)—The Korean President's Envoy Cho Sang-ho this morning arrived in Abu Dhabi from Muscat on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The Korean envoy carries a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Korean President No Tae-u.

Saddam Receives Special I Army Corps Flag

JN2206194989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has said: Praise be to God, although the war has neither ended from the legal viewpoint nor has a peace agreement been signed with Iran, we have found—in accordance with objective and scientific assessments—that we can disband the last corps that was formed during the war.

While receiving the flag and emblem of oath of the command of the Special I Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces—on the occasion of its demobilization, President Saddam Husayn added: Praise be God, the flag of the Special I Army Corps is being received in a grand celebration while we are satisfied and victorious.

His excellency added: All this has a special meaning to the Iraqis. The Iraqi military looks with pride on this occasion because they are the main party concerned with what takes place in war as well as in peace. Praise be to God, we witnessed the victory and all that took place throughout our victory—the pride of the Iraqis and the Arabs.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that patience, faith, honesty, and enthusiasm make people always see the bright side. The president added: It is useful to predict things. Had we not prepared ourselves scientifically and psychologically for what we would do in the wake of the war, we would have needed a long time before admitting our incompetence. However, we embarked on the stage of peace 2 years before the war stopped. [passage omitted]

The leader president said: We will rebuild al-Faw. When people see that the government is working, they will be encouraged. When the people see that the government is spending a great deal on rehabilitation, they will say that if the government were not certain that the peace is genuine and deterrence painful to Iran, it would not be doing so. The world is very interested in building al-Faw. [passage omitted]

The Army chief of staff presented the flag and emblem of oath of the Special I Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces—to President Saddam Husayn. The ceremony was attended by Defense Minister General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and the Armed Forces General Command members.

Trade Ministry Reports on 1988 Budget

JN2206142289 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA—The Ministry of Trade has attained a three per cent increase in the total value of its sales and revenues in 1988 mainly due to management reforms initiated by President Saddam Husayn in early 1987, said Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

A report published here today in the Iraqi English-language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that the minister was speaking about a working paper prepared by his ministry and discussed on Sunday by a joint meeting of Revolution Command Council, Regional Command of Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the cabinet.

The paper outlined the material and practical results of the management reform in the trade sector.

Mr. Salih said that in 1988 the closing accounts of the ministry showed a sharp reduction in expenditure compared with 1986. He said that expenditure decreased by 26.5 million dinars (approx. 80 million dollars) which form 19.3 percent of the total budget. Referring to 1988, the minister said that the increase in the revenues of the ministry was also due to remarkable increase of the marketing of wheat, rice, barley, table-chicken and eggs.

Another factor, Mr. Salih elaborated, was the reduction in maintenance services as the ministry companies started in August 1987 a drive to maintain the vehicles of the ministry. In that drive, he said, 879 different trucks and vehicles, which form 36 percent of the whole fleet of trucks, were repaired.

Mr. Salih said that the economic position of the ministry got another boost in 1987 with the completion by the ministry companies of several projects whose property was devolved from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The ministry, he said, sold a number of its firms and companies to private, cooperative and mixed sectors.

The minister added that the Trade Ministry saved 115.5 million dollars in 1988 by cutting its imports using, instead, locally-made goods. This cut, he added, was needed to increase and improve production of various industrial and agricultural goods whose bills cost millions of dollars. He explained that the total value of import bills for agricultural goods, used for direct consumption or as raw materials in industry, was two billion dollars a year. He said that the cut in imports included vegetable oils, tobacco, tyres, batteries and plastic bags. There was also a total stop of chicken imports whose cost in 1987 some 28 million dinars.

The minister explained that in 1988, the ministry started direct marketing of agricultural products without involving Ministry of agriculture and Irrigation and farmers cooperatives as brokers. Thus, the ministry saved 10.4 million dinars. Mr. Salih said the ministry lifted restrictions on some trade activities as of 1988 including the export of dates. Mr. Salih said that last March the ministry signed contracts with companies supplying wheat to transport this commodity in medium-size ships docking at Umm Qasr terminal, by doing so, the ministry had saved more than 135,000 dollars which were used to be paid to companies in Jordan and Kuwait.

U.S. Relief Worker Abducted in Gaza Strip

REUTER Cited

JN2306062789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] We just received the following REUTER dispatch which states that two Palestinians kidnapped Chris George, a U.S. citizen in Gaza yesterday. The U.S. citizen works as director of the humanitarian Save the Children [preceding words in English] organization which operates in Gaza. If this report proves to be true, this kindapping incident will be the first of its kind in the occupied Arab territories.

Kidnappers 'Linked to PLO'

TA2306070989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0655 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpts] An American citizen was kidnapped in Gaza by Arabs who are demanding the release of terrorists imprisoned in Israel in return for his release. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that the Arab kidnappers are linked to the PLO. In the studio with me is our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el with up-to-date information on this story:

[Passage omitted] The following is the IDF spokesman's announcement, which has just been received: An American citizen was kidnapped by Palestinians linked to the PLO. Immediately after the news of his kidnapping, the IDF and the other security forces started to look for the American and apprehend his kidnappers. The searches are continuing. The Defense Ministry is in continuous contact with the U.S. Embassy. [passage omitted]

Gaza Strip Closed

TA2306072389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] An American citizen who heads an aid organization in the Gaza strip was kidnapped by locals, most probably terrorists. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that the terrorists belong to the PLO. Other reports refer to a ransom demand signed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Muslim organization, which is demanding the release of jailed members of the organization in return for the kidnapped man's release.

The kidnapped man is Chris George, 37, who is in charge of the Save the Children Fund in the territories. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man used to come to his Gaza office once a week. Yesterday, two people were seen dragging him from the office located in the center of the town.

The Gaza Strip was closed this morning by order of the commander of the region, and wide-scale searches for the kidnapped man are under way.

The U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem was put on the alert, and the U.S. Embassy has called on all U.S. nationals in Israel not to enter the Gaza Strip for fear of their safety.

President Bush and Secretary of State Baker were briefed on the kidnapping.

Red Cross Receives Demands

JN2306082789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from the occupied territories mentioned today the possibility that Chris George, a U.S. citizen, was kidnapped by unknown persons in Gaza yesterday. An official U.S. source in Washington confirmed these reports with some reservations. A Palestinian source said that a caller, whose identity remains unknown, contacted the International Red Cross office in Gaza yesterday. The caller confirmed that the U.S. citizen who works in a U.S. humanitarian organization was really kidnapped and will be set free only if the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and in the occupied territories are set free, and also only after an urgent investigation is begun on the circumstances surrounding the death of Palestinian detainee 'Umar al-Qasim.

More on Demands

TA2306092789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from foreign correspondents and others say that the two who kidnapped Chris George, the head of a fund for neighborhood rehabilitation in the territories, knew him personally. They said they had come to meet with him and the door was opened for them. Eyewitnesses said that the two hugged and kissed George and were later seen dragging him from the office located on a main street.

A ransom demand sent to the International Red Cross office in the Gaza Strip includes a demand to release terrorists and detainees belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Fatah in return for the kidnapped man. Among those whose release has been demanded is Hamas leader Shaykh Yasin.

PLO 'Condemns' Kidnapping

JN2306101689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1002 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] An official Israeli spokesman has stated that U.S. citizen Chris George, director of the Save the Children Fund, who was kindapped last night is in the hands of Palestinian terrorists. He added that these Palestinians sympathize with the PLO. However, he did not specify the group to which they belong.

In Tunis, PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said that the PLO has nothing to do with this operation. On the contrary, it vehemently condemns this kidnapping.

PLO Calls for Release

JN2306112589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Tunis—The PLO today vehemently condemned the kidnapping of a U.S. relief official who works in the occupied Gaza Strip. The PLO called for his immediate release, affirming that this kidnapping harms the Palestinian cause and the intifadah [uprising] against the occupation.

PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said that Israel will use this operation as an excuse to deploy more of its troops in the occupied Gaza Strip and to carry out further attacks against the Palestinian people there.

The spokesman called on all sectors of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah, to work for the immediate release of the U.S. official so that he may resume his work for the Palestinian children.

'Official U.S. Source' Cited

JN2306102189 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0938 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Washington—An official U.S. source has stated that a U.S. employee of a relief agency was apparently kidnapped yesterday in the occupied Gaza Strip. The source, who declined to reveal his name, added that Chris George, who works for Save the Children Fund, was apparently kidnapped at noon yesterday in Gaza Strip. He said that Washington does not precisely know the party behind the kidnapping.

On its part, REUTERS cited some residents of Gaza as saying that George is a known figure and is respected by all Palestinians in the strip because he works for an organization working for the benefit of children and also because he works for the Community Development Fund [name as heard], which is financed by the United States.

Press reports did not rule out that the Zionist Mosad organ carried out this operation in order to influence the current U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Rabin Interviewed

TA2306130589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1230 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said a short while ago that Israel is not holding negotiations with the kidnappers of Chris George, the U.S. aid organization person. A kidnapping is nothing new; it is the fact that the hostage is a U.S. civilian that is new. Rabin also said there is not necessarily a link between the kidnapping of the U.S. civilian and that of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers Sasportas and Sa'adon. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe spoke with the defense minister a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the head of the U.S. aid organization in the territories was kidnapped yesterday. Do we know with certainty the identity of the kidnappers and what their demands are?

[Rabin] To tell the truth, [brief interruption in transmission] I received the first report from the U.S. ambassador. We immediately started to take action in coordination and understanding with the U.S. Embassy. I do not think it would be wise today, for reasons I would not specify, to tell all the details we know. I would only say that we know a great deal on the circumstances of the kidnapping, the groups involved, and their demands. As is well known, we have not received any appeal from the United States to accept the demands, and we do not intend to accept them.

[Menashe] What is the degree of coordination with the Americans?

[Rabin] There is a large degree of coordination. One should remember that we are referring to a kidnapping by people who were not strangers to the hostage apparently. Logic has it that they are treating him with great care. This compels us, too, to exercise caution, alongside the duty to discover his whereabouts and obtain his release.

[Menashe] Mr Rabin, do you view this incident as a deterioration or a change in what is happening in the territories?

[Rabin] Regretably, I cannot say I view this as a change for the better, but surely not for the worse either. As may be recalled, two IDF soldiers were also kidnapped: The late Avi Sasportas, who was murdered, and soldier Sa'adon, who is still considered missing. Therefore, a kidnapping is nothing new lately, unfortunately. The new element here is the kidnapping of an American who identified with the suffering of the Palestinians, according to his conception, who is here in the service of a voluntary organization whose aim is to help the Palestinians. [end recording]

Arens Cited on Demands

TA2306122489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says that the kidnapping of Chris George, the director of the Communal Development Fund [name as heard] in Gaza, proves that the PLO has remained a terrorist organization. He expressed his shock about the deed, hoping it would be possible to find the hostage and return him safely to his family.

In answer to a question by our correspondent David Essing as to whether Israel will accept the terrorists' demands that detainees from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Fatah organizations be released in return for the hostage, Minister Arens said Israel does not give in to such demands.

Searches for the kidnappers of Chris George are continuing in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, entrance into the strip is allowed for local Arab and Gush Qatif residents.

'Maximum Efforts' Exerted

TA2306103589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Yosi Ahime'ir, the prime minister's media adviser, said Israel is exerting maximum efforts to resolve the Gaza kidnapping affair. We are exerting great efforts to find the man, out of concern for his health and well-being. 'Aqiva Eldar reports from Jerusalem:

The meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Ambassador William Brown ended a short while ago, but everybody is keeping a low profile and maintaining silence on the matter. The Foreign Ministry announced it is keeping in touch with the U.S. Embassy, and spokesman Alon Li'el said we are following the ongoing searches with concern and hope. [passage omitted]

'Reminder' to U.S.

TA2306075489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Arens is at this very moment conferring in his Jerusalem office with U.S. Ambassador William Brown. Sources in Jerusalem say: The Gaza kidnapping again shows the Americans with whom we are dealing. 'Aqiva Eldar reports from Jerusalem:

The meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Ambassador William Brown, the man in charge of coordinating with Israel over the affair, is just beginning. The meeting was called to report on contacts over the peace initiative, but we can, of course, assume that the kidnapping affair will be a central issue in the discussions.

The Foreign Ministry is closely following developments and is receiving ongoing reports from the Defense Ministry and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Officials, who refused to be named, are already prepared to say that the kidnapping of the U.S. national is a reminder to the United States that terrorism is still continuing in the territories.

Israel, of course, promised the United States to do its utmost to release the kidnapped man, but although nobody is prepared to say it officially, it is clear that the Israeli policy of not yielding to kidnappers will remain in force in this case as well.

Shamir To Demand Likud Vote on Initiative

TA2206195589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will demand that the Likud Central Committee hold a vote on his initiative. This is the first time that Yitzhaq Shamir has said he will seek the Central Committee's endorsement by vote on the peace initiative. The prime minister is currently meeting Likud activists in Qiryat Ata. Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports:

[Begin recording] ['Azran] Already at the outset of his remarks, the prime minister said: No negotiations will be held as long as the intifadah [uprising] continues. He added: Jerusalem is totally nonnegotiable. Later he announced, for the first time and unequivocally, perhaps by way of vocalizing his first response to his opponents: There is no compromise proposal. The prime minister will demand that the Central Committee endorse his declaration, namely his initiative, as it is.

[Shamir] I will come to the Central Committee, present the plan, and explain it. I will also explain what happened after I proposed it, what we have discussed with the United States, what we discuss with other elements. I will present our fundamental positions—regarding Eretz Yisra'el, a Palestinian state, and Jerusalem—and ask the Central Committee to endorse the prime minister's announcement, as is the practice in the Knesset. [applause] This is the only resolution, the one and only resolution that can be made. It could form the basis for our emerging in unity.

Everyone wants unity. Ask me why I did not consult others. I repeat: I did, but people do not always agree with me, they do not agree with me in every consultation, and this is not a must. Let me go back to the previous Central Committee session, the last one, if you will recall: At that session, Mr Sharon objected to my position, as did Mr Moda'i, while David Levi supported me. Then the Central Committee made a resolution—and what happened after the session: Did Sharon go? Did he leave the movement or the cabinet? Did Moda'i leave the movement or the cabinet? They accepted the Central Committee's ruling. The same will happen this time too.

['Azran] The Central Committee session contest is not yet over: There will still be two opposing positions, two approaches, and a different set of tactics when the committee meets on 5 July. It will have to make a decision. [end recording]

Shamir Cited Further

TA2306044989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says if next month's Likud Central Committee meeting does not endorse his peace initiative, the Likud should leave the government.

Speaking to Central Committee members from the Haifa area, the prime minister said the party cannot change government decisions. Shamir said any changes in the peace initiative will weaken the position of Israel in the world.

He stressed that he will present his peace initiative before the Central Committee in its original form. The prime minister predicted that despite disagreements, ministers opposing the plan would not leave the party, just as those who opposed the national unity government have stayed inside.

He said the deteriorating security situation is only temporary and will soon be overcome.

Peres Interviewed on Socialists' Meeting, Plan

TA2206180189 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor and economic affairs correspondent Yehezqel Ya'aqobi—recorded in studio in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] As we noted in our introduction, you returned from Sweden last night, where you attended the Socialist International deliberations. You boycotted the discussions. Is that our new policy, to boycott debates in which the PLO participates?

[Peres] First of all, let us be more precise. There were three events in the Socialist International: A presidium session—which I attended; a council session with all the members—which I also attended; and the congress, which meets once every other year—I boycotted that meeting. Both in the presidium and in the council I was given time to explain our positions, which I did. I believe our views were received very well and actually impressed people. Some people changed their minds and told me as much.

As to the congress, we boycotted it for another reason, and that was that we were never consulted. Customarily in the Socialist International, if it takes an action or adopts a position that directly affects another member, the other member is consulted—and this is the proper way to do it. They did not consult us, and the president of the congress expressed his sorrow for this. Now, furthermore, they are looking for ways to amend the situation. We must insist on this. We must also insist on a number of principles regarding administrative matters because we sometimes find ourselves isolated in that congress. If we do not insist on the rights of an individual member, we may have to pay dearly for it.

[Ganor] In all the talks you held, you must have also dealt with the political issue. Was it your impression that the Israeli initiative was winning support?

[Peres] I think so. Look, not everyone is familiar with what you call the Israeli initiative. The idea is to hold elections. The year 1989 is the most important year in human history, a year in which the victory of democracy and the ballot is being celebrated. Seventy years after the communist revolution, the Soviet Union decided to move for elections. The unbelievable is happening! In the PRC, in Beijing, hundreds of thousands of students demonstrated—not for higher wages, but for elections and democracy. Even the French, who have already started to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, are beginning to doubt whether it was at all necessary, as it cost too many lives.

When I rose in the congress, I said: All of you who are assembled here are democra's and socialists. Are you against elections? Would you prefer us to conduct negotiations with a group of people who will be chosen by events, rather than a group of people who will be elected by vote? Does it not make more sense to pursue the democratic path, even from the point of view of the Palestinians themselves? Take the PLO, for example: How are decisions made there? Sometimes an individual draws a gun. We must shift to majority rule in every sense of the word: Both at home, and in our other relations.

[Ganor] And you believe that 1989 will be the year for elections in the territories as well.

[Peres] I did not say that. I am not sure that these can be held so quickly and easily. I do, however, believe that in the course of this year, there is a chance that such a resolution will be made. Furthermore, I believe that the Palestinians themselves—and even the PLO—have not yet provided an authoritative response to this proposal.

[Ya'aqobi] Yesterday or the day before you met with a senior Soviet official who participated in the congress. What, do you think, is the Soviet position toward the initiative? Would the Soviet Union support it under certain conditions? And if so, what conditions?

[Peres] First of all, what struck me was the tone the Soviet representative used. He sang a completely different tune than the one to which we have grown accustomed, far more friendly and open, allowing far more room for persuasion. The main point which he insisted on was self-determination. He wanted to know whether we can introduce into our plan self-determination for the Palestinians. I told him: I do not understand why you insist on the PLO. It is an organization! We, on the other hand, recognize the Palestinian people. Is the PLO not part of the Palestinian people? Are the Palestinian people part of the PLO? We recognize the people, why do you want us to insist on an organization? Second, I said: Not only do we recognize the Palestinians, but we also acknowledge that they have legitimate rights, that they have just demands, and that they even have the right to take part in determining their own future—in accordance with the Camp David agreements. I explained this

to the Soviet delegate, and said: Why can the Palestinians participate in the elections? Because we have two nations here, not only one. We have a double case of self-determination. In other words, each nation can have a part in its own self-determination.

[Ya'aqobi] What was his response? What is their position?

[Peres] He said that the Palestinians are having a very difficult time, and that they need to see some reference to the issue of the permanent solution. I told him: Listen, I remember that we held a conversation under similar circumstances several years ago. At that time you said: How can the PLO recognize the State of Israel? How can it recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338? This is their last bargaining chip! I said: Look at what happened! They did recognize 242 and 338. Has the PLO grown any weaker as a result? I said to him: You are mistaken about one thing. Being moderate is an extremely powerful asset. I believe that from the Palestinian point of view as well, a moderate stance carries far more weight than an extremist Palestinian position. I also reminded him that a top Israeli Government official said that autonomy is virtually tantamount to self-determination.

[Ganor] Among the Arab and PLO conditions for elections is the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the balloting, international supervision, and the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units from population centers. Is there room for more flexibility?

[Peres] On the part of whom?

[Ganor] On the part of Israel, to promote the idea of elections.

[Peres] Look, none of these three elements was included in the document known as the Israeli initiative. That is because while we did not decide in favor of it, neither did we reject it. In other words, the matter is still open. Some of us expressed support for granting voting rights to the inhabitants of East Jerusalem—albeit not in town, but outside it. That, too, is an indication of sorts.

As for international supervision, it drew a smile from everyone. I asked them: Tell me, did the fact that there were two overseers in the elections in Panama—Carter and Ford—turn that country into a greater democracy than it is? Will the absence of two former U.S. presidents in Israel make it less of a democracy than it is? After all, this is an open country which allows hundreds of journalists to go anywhere any time, day or night. What will the supervisors contribute? I do not understand this!

It has been the practice, as was the case in the 1976 elections, that on election day the army is absent from the vicinity of the ballot boxes. I see no reason why we should not do the same this time.

[Ya'aqobi] The Americans, for their part, have been continuing their dialogue with the PLO. We have heard that a representative of the inhabitants of the territories—Al-Saftawi—may want to launch negotiations; he has his own plan. Is this not actually indirect Israeli-PLO negotiations?

[Peres] You are asking me to give you a literary description, while the political description corroborates what you are saying: It is true. The Americans are talking to the PLO, and to us. At the same time, they deny that these are indirect negotiations. Any description you may want...

[Ya'aqobi, interrupting] In actual fact, in effect.

[Peres] In effect, I believe the Americans are trying to find a way to talk the Palestinians into accepting elections. To call a spade a spade, they want to remove the PLO's opposition to these elections so that the inhabitants can participate. Many of us feel that if the PLO had not prevented it, and sometimes even threatened people about it, most of the residents would have opted for and gone to elections. Look, the Arab world will gain from democracy. It has already tried everything else: Monarchy, republics, even a Khomeyni-style regime. Now is the time for the Arab world—and I address these remarks also to the Arab listeners—to try democracy: Majority rule, majority decisions, with no one killing anyone or threatening anyone. I am convinced that if we manage to sell the idea of elections, it will mark the beginning of a revolution throughout the Arab world. It will work in the Arabs' favor, it will help peace, and it will help relations between us.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, does holding elections depend on the cessation of incidents in the territories?

[Peres] I believe that if elections are held, there will be no incidents, as they are mutually exclusive.

[Ganor] The defense minister is seeking harsher legal means.

[Peres] He has appealed to the legal authorities, and they are looking into the matter.

[Ganor] Do you support this approach? Do you think this is one way of putting an end to the violence in the territories and bringing about calm?

[Peres] I do not believe the defense minister said it will result in tranquility and end the incidents in the territories. What I presume he wants to achieve is to enjoy a broader scope of legal measures in order to have to resort to fewer military measures. If this is the attitude, it is understandable.

[Ya'aqobi] Is this understandable to you? Do you accept such measures as easier deportation procedures, faster procedures, more extensive use of the tool of boarding up houses?

[Peres] The business of deportations depends on the number, not the procedure. Even if the decision to expel someone is made quicker, it will not change things drastically. As long as the deportee, or the would-be deportee, can appeal to the legal authorities—that is fine.

[Ya'aqobi] Do you support the reopening of schools in the territories, as per the urging of the education minister?

[Peres] I support the reopening of schools in the territories on condition that the parents undertake that studies take place in them, not demonstrations. They are not schools for demonstrations; they are schools where studies are supposed to be conducted. The parents can definitely pledge an end to the stonings and the provocation. In that case, the schools could reopen. Certainly. None of us derives any pleasure out of seeing a school closed, or watching an Arab boy sitting at home—even if someone tutors him there.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, this week we witnessed acts of violence, an escalation of the incidents in which both Jews and Arabs took the law into their hands. Have we really lost all control? Are we on the brink of anarchy?

[Peres] No. I do not think that a democratic regime should be judged by the occasional law breakers. It should be judged by the extent to which it can overcome them. One should not drop down on one's knees before them. I think we are not only defending the land, but the system. No one will impose a reign of terror here. No one will intimidate us or frighten us. No minority, even if it wields guns, will have the upper hand in this land, because, as I said, we are defending two things: Our land and our liberty. The two are extremely important.

[Ya'aqobi] Mr Peres, with your permission let us move on to the partisan issue. The Likud Central Committee will meet in 2 weeks. The date for its session has already been set. Do you think that if the Shamir initiative is rejected by the central committee, it will become necessary to dissolve the unity government?

[Peres] I do not usually like to indulge in guesswork or speculation. Let us wait and see what happens. I hope the Israeli initiative will not be stultified.

[Ganor] By introducing additional conditions to it, as per yesterday's resolution of the central committee?

[Peres] That is what I meant by stultifying the initiative. By that I mean clamping a Denver boot on it. Just as they do not like that in Tel Aviv, no one in Israel really needs it.

[Ganor] What if these conditions are nevertheless raised?

[Peres] If that happens, I will react, but I do not have to do that in advance.

[Ya'aqobi] One more possibly hypothetical question...

[Peres, interrupting] If they do clamp on a Denver boot, and the peace initiative cannot move forward, the cabinet will find itself in a bind, a crisis—if that actually happens.

[Ya'aqobi] Will it then be necessary to dissolve it?

[Peres] Let us wait and see.

[Ya'aqobi] Another hypothesis: In that case, does the Alignment have the option of forming a narrow-based government with the religious parties? There has been mention of contacts.

[Peres] Let us wait. Be patient. Let us not anticipate the news before it actually happens.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, to round out this interview, allow me to address a personal question to you. The impression is that the standing of Shim'on Peres, the chairman of the Labor Party, has been somewhat tarnished due to the economic situation.

[Peres] Is that good or bad? I do not understand: Does this worry anyone?

[Ganor] The question is whether this worries you.

[Peres] No, I feel fine.

[Ya'aqobi] Even though the peace initiative is attributed to Rabin and Shamir?

[Peres] I sincerely wish it luck.

[Ya'aqobi] There is also the economic situation.

[Peres] The economic situation is difficult and must be addressed—but not for the first time, and this does not frighten me. I do not accept this concept at all. It is not a personal issue. It is how I feel, and what should be done. I have always believed this, and I do not get excited over the marks I get. I have gotten used to this. I have been given bad marks so many times, let them do so again. [passage omitted]

Trade Negotiations With Soviets Under Way

TA2306084889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jun 89 p A1

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Israel and the Soviet Union are holding negotiations to establish trade relations between the two countries. Authorized political sources reported that it has already been agreed in principle that Israel will soon export several types of goods to the Soviet Union. Details on the volume of trade and the specific goods that are to be exported have not yet been released.

It was further learned that Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and finance minister, met this week in Sweden with Karen Brutens, a first deputy chief of the CPSU International Department in charge of the Middle East, and that they discussed this issue. Concrete steps concerning trade relations between the two countries were agreed upon in the meeting.

Restoration of Ties With Hungary by Mid-July

TA2306104289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Full diplomatic relations between Israel and Hungary will be restored by mid-July. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that this was learned from a report that reached Jerusalem this morning. There have been declarations in the past that diplomatic relations between the two countries would be resumed in the near future, but this time it appears that ties will be restored soon.

IRC Head Notes Improved Lock-Up Facilities

TA2206203289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, the president of the International Red Cross [IRC], met with the defense minister today. He expressed great appreciation for improvements introduced by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in military lock-up facilities. During their meeting, the IRC president asked that the IDF permit family visits in the Qezi'ot lock-up facilities, as is the practice in other detention centers.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IRC also suggests that medical treatment extended in the Gaza hospitals be coordinated with the Civil Administration.

Minister Rabin said that the the proposals and requests will be examined and that the decision on whether or not to accede to them will be given in upcoming contacts with the organization.

Cited on Membership

TA2306045989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The head of the International Red Cross Organization, Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, says he sees no solution in sight on recognition of Israel's Red Shield of David as part of the organization.

The issue was discussed between the Red Cross official and members of the Magen David Adom Association, and afterwards Dr Sommaruga told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami it would require a revision of the organization's rules and the consent of 166 governments represented. [passage omitted]

Meets Shamir

TA2306100989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met this morning with Cornelio Sommaruga, the head of the International Red Cross [IRC]. The guest informed Mr Shamir of the humanitarian aspects of the IRC's activities during the intifadah [uprising].

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in the meeting, the prime minister said that Israel is acting with great restraint in dealing with the residents of the territories in accordance with all international conventions recognized by the IRC and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has received strict instructions to avoid endangering lives.

Southern Command's Vilna'i Profiled

TA2306111389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jun 89 p 4

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpts] Acquaintances say Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i, who has been named to succeed Maj.-Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay as OC [Officer Commanding] Southern Command, is a quiet, no-nonsense, professional soldier for whom "all possible superlatives are applicable."

Vilna'i, said to have been Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron's first choice to replace 'Amram Mitzna' at Central Command, is an exceedingly shy, private individual who, like Shomron, has no clique of supporters among the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] senior echelons.

He is, however, highly respected by his peers and subordinates, and has been since his meteoric rise through the ranks of the paratrooper brigade, which saw him attain the rank of colonel at the age of 30, when he was given command of a reserve brigade.

One of the highlights of his career was the Entebbe rescue, in which he served as deputy to Shomron, the mission's commander. [passage omitted]

Vilna'i was born in Jerusalem in 1944 and studied in the military academy of the Re'ali high school in Haifa. He joined the paratroopers in 1962 and went on to serve in all levels of command in the unit, starting as a squad leader and eventually rising to commander of the paratrooper brigade.

In the Six Day War he served in a command role and was promoted to the level of a deputy battalion commander in the paratroopers shortly afterward. After serving as an operations officer in the paratrooper brigade, Vilna'i was given command of a battalion.

As a 29-year-old lieutenant-colonel in the Yom Kippur War, Vilna'i was the Central Command's operations officer. In 1974, he was given command of a reserve paratrooper brigade, and in 1975 he became commander of the regular paratrooper brigade.

In 1976, he was named commander of the Officers Training School, and a year later was sent to study at the National Defence College. Following his studies he was named chief paratroop and infantry officer and promoted to brigadier-general.

In 1982, after having undergone interdisciplinary training, he was given command of an armoured division in the north which he led in the Lebanon War.

Vilna'i was sent to study at Harvard's Centre for Strategic Studies in 1984. In December 1985 he was named head of the Manpower Branch and promoted to the rank of major-general.

He is married and the father of three sons.

Youth Killed Near Ramallah; Settlers Detained

TA2306132189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A 20-year-old youth was killed in a shooting near the village of Qarawat Bani Zayd in the Ramallah area. Arab residents report he was shot by Israelis. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces detained nine Israelis, probably Samaria settlers, near the village, and are now investigating their involvement in the affair.

Aharon Domb, the head of the Information Center in Hebron, says that an underground weekly describes the settlers as a target for attacks by the Arabs in the territories since they are the weak link in Israel's rule. The center people found copies of this weekly in Hebron and its surroundings. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Information Center sent translations of the weekly articles to right-wing Knesset members.

Police Data on 'Subversive' Acts by Arabs

TA2306114289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT SUPPLEMENT) in Hebrew 23 Jun 89 p 10

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] Police data note a substantial increase in the extent of Israeli Arab involvement in subversive activity since the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising].

Not all the activity was carried out by Israeli Arabs; some was conducted solely by residents of the territories, while other incidents involved the cooperation of local Arabs. In 1988, for example, some 500 subversive acts were registered, while in 1987 the number stood at 125.

The term "subversive act" covers a wide range of incidents, from scrawling graffiti and anti-Israeli slogans through hoisting Palestinian flags and concluding with stone throwing. These are the relatively light cases.

In the same year, 208 terror acts took place within Israel's boundaries, compared with only 69 in 1987 before the intifadah. These incidents included 170 cases of throwing firebombs, 20 cases of planting bombs, 12 stabbing incidents, 2 cases of throwing hand grenades, 2 shooting incidents, and 3 cases where Israeli citizens were murdered. [figures as published]

Police records noted 15 organizations whose goal is to carry out terror acts in 1988, compared with only 2 such organizations the year before. Some of these were termed "local organizations," while the rest were the result of a conscious effort by the Palestinian organizations to expand the circle of Israeli Arabs who are willing to carry out terror acts.

The various organizations recruit the Israeli Arabs when they are on pilgrimage to Mecca, studying in Europe, or traveling to Egypt. A most significant case in point was the Israeli Arab who threw hand grenades in a Haifa mall; he was recruited for this mission in Cairo.

'Moderation' Policy Encourages Israeli Aggression

JN2206075589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Enough Is Enough"]

[Text] Two seemingly unrelated reports from two different parts of the world Wednesday have again projected the threats and frustration inherent in the yawning shortcomings in Arab defensive strategies in the Middle East. The first report, carried by an American newspaper, said South Africa was poised to test an intermediate-range ballistic missile developed with Israel's help. The second report, carried by Iran's official news agency IRNA, was not so explicit, but shed some light into the country's ongoing quest to develop a nuclear programme, ostensibly for peaceful purposes. THE WASHINGTON POST report on South African-Israeli cooperation in developing missiles, (among other things of course), said the weapon to be tested was a modified version of Israel's Jericho II missile. IRNA reported the arrival in Teheran of International Energy Agency (IEA) Director-General Hans Blix for talks on developing nuclear energy. Needless to say Blix's visit has very little to do with Iran's parallel nuclear plans, which are reportedly helped by at least two East bloc states.

While neither the fact that Israel possesses nuclear weapons nor the Iranian quest to develop an atomic arms programme is any closely-guarded secret like the combination to Fort Knox, the two reports underpin one of the major shortfalls in the Arab military strategy. Yet another report Wednesday, of an Israeli air raid on Lebanon, further exposed what can be nothing but a gaping hole in the defensive wall of the Arab World. What else could be the explanation for the obvious immunity with which Israel sends its jets to bomb and rocket the territory of an Arab League member?

There cannot be any more circumventing the reality that the Arab countries in the Middle East, particularly Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, could be easily caught in-between the nuclear threats posed from both east and west if and when Iran manages to push through its clandestine nuclear programme into fruition.

In the last 40 odd years we have seen enough and more of Israeli aggression, arrogance, defiance and immune violations of Arab sovereignty and integrity. The Israeli posture is further boosted by the Zionist state's nuclear weapons capabilities in the face of Arab moderation and peace overtures. Does someone have to spell it out to the Arab World that as long as the Arabs remain static, resigned to accepting Israel's military might and blaming it on the Zionist state's "straegic alliance" with the United States, there cannot be any meaningful solution to the Middle East conflict except those dictated by the aggressor? The Arab masses at large are asking the question: How long do they have to put up with Israel's open slaps before the leaders will seriously consider revamping and updating their military strategies to such a level that will make the Zionist state hesitate for a moment and think twice before ordering its warplanes into Arab skies?

We in Jordan have always been staunch advocates of moderation and dialogue based on the time-proven philosophy that military might, whether conventional or nuclear, is not the answer to political problems. If anything, we have always pointed out that building military prowess is always at the expense of much-needed development projects for any Third World country like ours. But, can we overlook the glaring truth that such moderation has not paid off with Israel, and, on the contrary, it appears to be an encouraging element to the enemy to strike at Arab targets at will? Can we continue to refrain from telling ourselves and the rest of the Arab world that it is high time we got together and moved to plug in the loopholes in our defences to the extent that nuclear deterrents are in place in Arab states?

Committee's Aid to Intifadah Victims Described

JN2106095589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Jordanian People's Committee to Support the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has provided financial assistance to 4,000 injured Palestinians at the rate of JD [Jordanian dinars] 200 each, and to the families of 500 others who fell in the struggle against occupation at the rate of JD 1,000, according to an announcement here Monday.

The announcement was made by Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, the committee's chairman at a meeting of its general assembly to review the committee's activities and operations in the past year.

Shuman said that more contributions should be made by individuals, companies, banks and various other organisations to help the oppressed people of Palestine under Israeli rule.

The committee's secretary general, Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, told the meeting that the professional associations in Jordan are exerting strenuous efforts to raise funds for the committee's operations and, furthermore, they are contacting world organisations to expose Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab lands.

Dr. Khalil al-Salim, the committee's treasurer, said that last year's contributions amounted to JD 1,324,125 but that more contributions were required in view of the growing number of people injured and killed in the occupied Arab lands as a result of Israel's continued repressive measures.

He said that the Arab Bank in Amman Monday donated JD 100,000 and Petra Bank, JD 15,000, and that local women's associations have raised JD 592,000 since the creation of the committee last year.

Al-Salim said compaigns will have to be launched at all levels to raise more contriubtions for the intifadah to support the Palestinian peoples' resistance.

State To Buy 'Limited' Amount of W. Bank Fruit

JN2106111089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Limited quantities of a selected number of fruits will be allowed to be bought by Jordan from the occupied West Bank for the coming month, according to a statement issued Tuesday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The statement said that shipments of bananas, peaches, carrots and vine leaves will be allowed to cross into Jordan provided that they had been grown in Arab-owned areas.

The statement which gave details of the quantities and the procedures to be followed, said that the decision was taken as part of the government of Jordan's endeavours to provide support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

FRG To Assist in Rescheduling of Debts

JN1706062789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—West Germany's contribution to Jordanian efforts to overcome its present economic difficulties will be mostly in the form of support for the Kingdom at various international agencies and bodies to reschedule its debts, according to the West German ambassador in Amman.

"We have realised that what Jordan needs today is not the traditional instruments of assistance that we have been extending over the years," said Ambassador Herwig Bartels. "Also, it is not credits but grants that Jordan requires, but this poses some difficulties for us," he said.

West Germany will be supportive of the Kingdom's efforts with the Paris and London club of creditor nations and international agencies and uses its influence as a major donor to these agencies to endorse the Kingdom's requests to reschedule its foreign debts, the ambassador said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

According to Bartels, Jordanian-West German relations have been and still are "excellent" from the day the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1955. He pointed out that Jordan was the first Arab state to resume diplomatic ties with West Germany in 1967 after severing them in protest against Bonn's establishment of formal ties with Israel in 1965.

Jordan, recipient of the largest amount of West German aid in per capita terms, has received about DM 1.2 billion in direct and indirect assistance since 1955—DM 850 million in financial aid and DM 350 million in technical assistance.

West Germany financed the construction of a new port facility at al-'Aqaba and the railroad connecting the phosphate mines in the south with the port, Bartels said. West German expert assistance at present is focused on the Kingdom's agricultural sector where the Federal Republic is involved in several projects.

Approximately 40 West German experts are assigned to Jordan to offer advice and expertise in various fields, again mostly in agriculture, the ambassador said. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim Regrets 'Suffering' of Bulgarian Turks

JN2106164789 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said he regretted the suffering of the Turkish refugees leaving Bulgaria, and the aggravating problem between the two countries. Answering a question from the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, on the issue, the foreign minister said Jordan's concern with the flow of Turkish refugees, apart from its humanitarian grounds, stems from its abidance by resolutions of Islamic meetings, which call for tackling the problem by allowing Muslim minorities in Bulgaria to exercise their fundamental rights freely.

The foreign minister expressed hope that Turkish and Bulgarian Governments will achieve a speedy solution to the problem to protect their interests and maintain their goodneighborliness.

Israeli Air Raid in al-Biqa' Area Reported

2 Helicopters Sighted

NC2306050189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Two Israeli Cobra helicopters have carried out an air raid on Birkat Jabbur in western al-Biqa' and on the outskirts of Qatran town in the Jazzin area.

'Warplanes' Raid Area

NC2306085289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided the hills overlooking the town of Maydun in western al-Biqa' at 1110 today.

Israelis Reportedly Advancing

NC2306094889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports from western al-Biqa', the township of Maydun has been subjected to concentrated artillery bombardment from Israeli and Agent Lahd positions in Marj 'Uyun since 0945 today. It has been learned that an Israeli attempt to advance toward the Maydun combat line is being met by the resistance. Zionist helicopters are providing protection for the advancing force.

Meanwhile, another Zionist advance attempt is currently taking place toward al-Dallafah, where ferocious fighting is raging between the occupation forces and resistance fighters.

Syrians Fear Attack on W. al-Biqa'

NC2206141889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] A military source in al-Biqa' has disclosed that the Syrian forces fear Israel might launch a military operation in western al-Biqa' including the advance lines in the area. The Syrian forces have taken all military precautions and begun camouflaging their positions in al-Biqa'. They have dug trenches and erected barricades around tank and artillery emplacements.

The source said that the Syrian forces have requested Hizballah fighters to proceed to the frontlines in the western al-Biqa' extending from Masgharah to al-Maydan and up to the township of Sumhur. Hizballah fighters have taken combat positions after digging trenches and setting up barricades. They have also brought with them SAM-7 missiles and other antiarmor missiles. It is estimated that about 3,000 fighters have been brought from the Hizballah's positions in Ba'labakk, al-Hirmil, and the 'Abdallah barracks.

Israeli Armored Column Enters Marj 'Uyun Area

NC2206151489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, the Zionist occupation forces have sent an armored column toward Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqy from across the border gate at Metulla. Our correspondent in the eastern sector reports that the armored column consists of 25 Merkava and Centurion tanks, about 20 M-113 armored personnel carriers, and 2 jeeps. Helicopters hovered over the column, which was accompanied by about 400 soldiers and over 20 officers, some of whom were high-ranking. The roads in the area were cut off while the convoy was heading toward Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqy. The occupation forces also closed the crossing points at Zummarayya and Kafr Tibnit.

The occupation forces and the agent Lahd militia on the lines of Kafr Huna, Jabbur, Al-Ahmadiyah, and Hasbayya have been put on alert.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC2306094689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut at 1210 today.

Protest to UN Over Israeli Raids Planned

NC2206133589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Acting on the directions of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, has telephoned Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, requesting him to urgently lodge a strongly worded protest against Israel because of its air attack yesterday on the areas of Al-Damur and Al-Na'imah.

'Awn 'Secret Envoy' Reportedly in Damascus

NC2306093089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] A special source in Beirut has stated that a secret envoy of Prime Minister General 'Awn has been in Damascus for the past 2 days to hold negotiations designed to thaw the ice between Syria and the government of General 'Awn, according to AFP citing the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH.

U.S. Said to Avert 'Awn Clash With Syrians

PM2106140589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 89 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Washington Prevented Decisive Confrontation Between Syrian and 'Awn Forces"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Western diplomatic sources in Beirut have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that U.S. intervention prevented a decisive military confrontation between the Syrian forces in Lebanon and the forces loyal to General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government.

The sources said that, before the Arab emergency summit conference in Casablanca, Damascus informed Washington through diplomatic channels that Iraq had supplied 'Awn's government with surface-to-surface missiles capable of hitting Damascus, that it considered this a threat to its security, and that it was therefore going to disregard what are known as the "red lines."

The sources added that Washington then held urgent contacts with 'Awn, who stressed that his government had received no such missiles and said categorically that, even if he had missiles in his possession capable of reaching Syrian territory, he would not use them under any circumstances.

'Awn, the sources said, told the Americans that his forces had artillery capable of shelling targets inside Syrian territory but his strict orders were that they should not be used for that purpose because his battle was "against the Syrian forces in Lebanon, not against Syria."

The sources added that Washington conveyed that denial to Damascus and informed it that it was emphatically opposed to any attempt at a military settlement, pointing out that there was a U.S.-Soviet agreement to oppose any such action in Lebanon.

The sources further said that Washington increased its public criticism of Damascus, the clear message being that an advance by its forces on 'Awn's positions was "prohibited" and that the red lines still stood.

The sources noted that Syria, which had sent additional forces to Lebanon, abandoned its military move, especially after Washington promised to hold "very clear" contacts with the sides which supply 'Awn with arms. [passage omitted]

2 Operations Against Syrian Forces in W. Beirut

NC2206191889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has telephoned Radio Free Lebanon to claim responsibility for detonating an explosive charge in a Syrian position near the Shatila circle in West Beirut. The battalion said that one Syrian soldier was killed and two others were wounded.

The Shaykh Hasan Khalid Forces have claimed responsibility for carrying out an operation against a position of the Syrian occupation forces on the al-Awza'i airport road in West Beirut.

Syria Shells Coast of Jubayl, Other Areas

NC2306074789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Since 0955 today, the coast of Jubayl has been coming under long-range artillery bombardment from the Syrian positions in the north and West Beirut. The Syrians shelled the coast of northern Al-Matn, Al-Ashrafiyah, and the coast of Jubayl last night.

Army Command Source on Beirut Crossing

NC2206111389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The Museum-al-Barbir crossing point was reopened at 1130 today. It was closed at 0730 due to sniper fire originating from East Beirut areas that left citizen 'Afif Shuraym slightly injured.

Commenting on the incident, a military source in the Army Command in Beirut said: Although the Museum-al-Barbir crossing is partially open to facilitate the movement of diplomats, deputies, figures from official and humanitarian establishments, and UN officials, military personnel deployed on the Argentine Embassy building directed sniper fire at civilian pedestrians near the al-'Ijjah building. Citizen 'Afif Shuraym was injured and was transferred to the American University hospital.

The crossing was closed for some time to protect the citizens. It was reopened when it was ascertained that the sniper fire had stopped. This incident runs counter to the statements made by the Al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] commanders to the Arab Committee and other personalities working to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Iranians Reportedly Set Up Centers in Tripoli

NC2206140989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports from the north, all the Islamic Unification Movement's [IUM] centers in Tripoli have been reopened. It has been learned that the IUM gunmen who were imprisoned in Syria have been released and returned to Tripoli to take control of the centers.

It has also been learned that a number of Iranians were spotted in Tripoli trying to set up centers in the town.

New Syrian Organization in Tripoli Reported

NC2306094289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Informed sources have revealed that a new organization has appeared in the city of Tripoli. The organization, which calls itself the 9 February Movement—Tripoli Youths [harakat al-tasi' min shubat, shabad tarabulus], embraces groups from the [Islamic] Unification Movement and the Khalil 'Akkawi 9 February Organization, which were recently released by the Syrian authorities. The new organization operates under the supervision of Syrian intelligence.

Al-Asad Receives Former Egyptian Minister

JN2206155889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today Muhammad Fa'iq, a former information minister of Egypt. They talked about Arab developments and inter-Arab ties.

Al-Shar' on Condition for Dialogue With 'Awn

JN2206154589 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 6

[By Nabil Nammurah]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed that at present there is no talk of a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon but rather of an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, indicating that the tripartite committee is following up this subject.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', he did not rule out a solution to the Lebanese crisis once there are good intentions. He called on General 'Awn clearly and unequivocally to announce his acceptance of the Casablanca summit resolution.

He began his statement by saying that all the topics discussed during the meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation were important and dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the need to promote Afro-Arab cooperation in all spheres, especially in matters related to confronting the two racist regimes in [Israel] and Pretoria.

Asked if his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials dealt with the Lebanese question and the nature of these talks, he said: Naturally, we discussed the Lebanese question and hope that the tripartite committee will manage to remove the obstacles facing its mission at present, particularly those related to the security segment of the resolution, so that it could proceed to the political one and achieve national reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Asked if Syria still believes that it is possible to end the Lebanese crisis within 6 months, Al-Shar' said: I do not rule out a solution to the Lebanese crisis once there are good intentions and once the tripartite committee manages to resolve the security problems, which require the formation of a Lebanese security committee to lift the blockades, open the crossings, and monitor ships to prevent the arrival of arms shipments to any Lebanese faction. Asked if it is possible for Syria to hold dialogue with Gen Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, he said: 'Awn is supposed to clearly and unequivocally declare his acceptance of the Casablanca summit resolution. In such a case, the dialogue will be an inter-Lebanese affair. As for Syria, it will do its best to help the tripartite committee on the one hand and the Lebanese parties on the other for the sake of pushing ahead the process of dialogue in implementation of the Casablanca resolution.

Asked if there are Syrian contacts with the parties to the conflict in the eastern area, he said: Of course there are contacts with the Lebanese parties.

Replying to a question on whether Syria intends to withdraw from Lebanon, he said: There is no talk about Syrian withdrawals from Lebanon; talk is focusing on Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolution 452, and the tripartite committee is following up this subject.

Al-Shar' left Kuwait yesterday after attending part of the meetings of the 10th session of the Afro-Arab Cooperation Commission. He was seen off at the airport by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Syrian Minister on Concept for Lebanese Solution

NC2306105989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0704 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that the Syrian concept of the solution to the Lebanese crisis is in line with the Casablanca summit resolution. This stipulated that the solution should be based on drawing up a document on political reforms and calling the Chamber of Deputies to meet to elect a speaker and to ratify the document on political reforms, after which presidential elections would be held. The elected president would then be committed to the reforms document ratified by the chamber and then a national government would be formed and the political reforms implemented.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Syrian minister said that the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon will be carried out following the Israeli forces' withdrawal. He added that there would be no reason for the Syrian presence once reconciliation is achieved in Lebanon and the Israeli forces have withdrawn.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Delivers Speech to Armed Forces

LD2306080589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 22, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan "RA" and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA, participated today in a vast session of the leading organ of the Armed Forces of the country, held in Storay Palace of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Afghan president delivered his speech in the session during which he drew the attention of the personnel of the Armed Forces to their great tasks and responsibilities in present-day complicated situation of the country, preservation of the independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, repulsion of foreign invasions and ensurance of natio n-wide peace and security.

While touching on the military doctorine of the Government of the RA, Najibullah stated that the Government of the RA and its Armed Forces have entered in to a new and responsible phase, the phase to which the destiny of our country and war-torn people is related. In this historic phase, the Armed Forces play an outstanding role.

While talking about the heroism of the Armed Forces, the Afghan president went on to say, the defenders of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Zabol and other provinces have possessed permanent honourables [as received] and once again showed bravery and heroism of the heroic Afghan people and the Armed Forces to the whole world.

Najibullah emphasised that in present day conditions in which our constructive proposals are being ignored and invasions are being imposed on us, we are compelled to defend our country.

How to get rid of war should be the crucial point in the Republic of Afghanistan. The pursuance of the policy of national reconciliation has been put forward here as an officially accepted system for defending the country, said President Najibullah.

However, certain circles in Pakistan have developed a secret design under which soon after should the armed opposition comes to power, a new strategic alliance for South West Asia encompassing Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey to be created. Following such a strategy, Pakistan is striving to revive the aggressive military pact of CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] to draw Afghanistan in it. For this reason, Pakistan strives its best to topple the Government of the RA through military means and to install Pakistani-supported government of Rawalpindi.

The leaders of the "seven-alliance" in Pakistan is conforming with this plan because Sebghatullah Mojaddedi not only confirmed the military-politico alliance designed by Pakistan but strongly defended it.

Mojaddedi said that in his view there is a necessity for such a multi-lateral alliance because Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey have common political objectives. Likewise, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has also defended for more than once the plot of Pakistani leaders for the annexation of Afghanistan to Pakistan under the cover of a "confederation."

It could be easily observed that the extremists with the cooperation of Pakistani militarists resort to dangerous anti-national activities. They on the one hand, try to take power with the help of Pakistan and on the other, to implement the expansionist plans of Pakistan and its international supporters in the region.

It is quite natural that the dangers emanating from the satanic Pakistani design in connection with the creation of politico-military alliance in South-West Asia is not only directed against the RA but it poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and all Asian continent, the Afghan president stressed.

While explaining in detail different military and defence issues of the country, President Najibullah, gave specific instructions to the leading organs of the Armed Forces.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, 'Abdul Rahim Hatif and General Muhammad Rafi', vice presidents, General Shanhawaz Tanay, defence minister, General Aslam Watanjar, minister of interior, General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, member of the Higher Defence Council of the RA, a number of members of the Council of Ministers, a large number of generals and officers of the Armed Forces and local and foreign journalists took part in the session.

Further on Najibullah Address

LD2206184289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, took part this morning in an extended session of the Armed Forces leadership delegation.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY'S military section reports that in this meeting, which was held in Storay Palace of the foreign affairs minister, attended by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers; 'Abdul Rahim Hatif and Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', vice presidents; Sarwaw Mangal, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister; Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, interior minister; Lieutenant General

Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, state security minister; a number of members from the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland and the Ministers Council; a large number of Armed Forces generals and officers and foreign and home journalists.

At the beginning of the session, Afghanistan's defense minister delivered his speech.

Esteemed Najibullah, in his comprehensive speech, drew the attention of Armed Forces' personnel to their important duties and responsibilities to protect the country's independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to foil aggression and ensure peace and security in the country during these sensitive moments. He then spoke about the principles of Afghanistan's military doctrine in the current situation, which will broadcast tonight at 2100 (local) [1630 GMT] via Afghanistan radio.

Views Foreign Assistance

BK2206124089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 22 Jun 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, June 22 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah told military commanders here Thursday that his government reserved the right to ask for help from "friendly countries" to fight direct foreign intervention in the Afghan war.

"As is known, we have numerous international friends and no doubt they will help us against the foreign direct intervention," Mr Najibullah said in an hour-long speech in which he praised the Armed Forces for winning "the first trial of strength" since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The meeting of top military commanders was the first since the president expanded the Supreme Council for the Defence of the Homeland and declared a state of emergency on February 19, a few days after the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, government officials said.

The Najibullah government is currently equipped by Moscow, and in his speech the president referred to the "massive" amounts of military hardware shipped into the country daily by road and airlifted from the Soviet border.

Observers here said that in speaking of help from "international friends," he was most probably referring to Warsaw Pact nations and possibly India.

The Pakistan-based mujahidin groups fighting the government have accused Afghan troops of using Soviet and Indian pilots and said there are Soviet advisers stationed in Afganistan, charges the government here has denied.

The Soviet Embassy here says it has a number of military advisers in the country, but that all are based in Kabul, and that their presence does not violate the Geneva accords which provided for the February 15 withdrawal.

"As is known to all, the extremists (mujahidin) and their foreign patrons (the United States and Saudi Arabia) have resorted to hiring the citizens of different groups as mercenaries," Mr Najibullah said.

"Together with extremist groups, foreigners also cross the borders of our country and directly take part in combat operations. They encourage and even force the heads of the groups to open fire on cities and kill civilians.

"Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan reserves this right for itself to refer to its international friends and attract those who want voluntary help and cooperation to us," the president told his military commanders.

He added however that the government was "still in favour of cooperation on an equal footing with all countries, primarily with neighbouring countries on the basis of sincere respect of national sovereignty and non-intervention in each other's international [as received] affairs."

Mr Najibullah made no reference as to whether the government in Kabul has already asked for assistance from other countries nor did he specify what kind of assistance he might have in mind.

The president devoted much of the rest of speech to slamming what he termed "satanic" design by elements in Pakistan to form an alliance between Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, which would be designed, he said, to evolve from "a soft to a military" alliance.

"The jihad (holy war) for the independence of Afghanistan is clearly just a cover for this goal," Mr Najibullah said.

He also slammed the recent talks on Afghanistan in Washington between U.S. President George Bush and Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, calling their announced policy "contradictory, paradoxical, vague and unclear."

"They ... want a continuation of war," he said, and referred to calls that he and his party should step aside to pave the way for a peaceful settlement in Afganistan.

"World opinion is not blind," he said. "Afghanistan could say Mrs Bhutto should resign, and the opposition should form a government there—what you would not like yourself, you should not suggest to others."

"How can they talk of a broadbased government when they reject the main protoganist. The U.S. is supporting the rise of democracy in Pakistan, but is supressing democracy with military force in Afghanistan," he said.

He said the Armed Forces would "do our utmost until the enemy is forced to yield to the policy of national reconciliation" and told his commanders "they may remain hungry for some days but will never submit to such a plan."

"The heroism displayed by the Armed Forces of Afghanistan has thwarted these ominous plans.... The whole world is watching, the people of Afghanistan will never forget you," Mr Najibullah said.

Mujahidin Tighten Siege Around Qandahar City

BK2306023489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have narrowed the siege around Qandahar and have intensified their attacks on the airfield and the areas around the city. The mujahidin say they have cut off all major roads leading to Qandahar City, which now maintains only air links with the outside world. In their operations, the mujahidin have captured a security post only 7 km northeast of Qandahar city, killing 17 Kabul regime soldiers.

According to AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, the mujahidin have wiped out four security posts in the vicinity of Chahar Asiab near Kabul, after capturing the Mir Bacheh Kowt military garrison. These posts were part of the security network around Kabul. During the operations, many Kabul soldiers were killed and wounded.

Food Shortage Causes Problems

BK2206145889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 22 (AFP)—Dozens of families have left southern Qandahar in the past few days following acute food shortages, as the mujahidin continue sporadic attacks around the city and airport, resistance sources said here Thursday.

Most of the families, whose number could not be determined, have sought refuge in mujahidin controlled areas in the districts of Arghestan, 85 kilometres north, and Bazar-e Panjva'i some 30 kilometres southwest of Qandahar, the sources said.

Some families have crossed the border into Pakistan, the sources in this bordering Pakistani city of Quetta said.

The mujahidin have claimed that all main routes to Qandahar, Afghanistan's second city, were cut and the city was only being supplied by air.

Daily, two transport planes were bringing in supplies from Kabul, a recent visitor to the area said, adding that the mujahidin were so close to Qandahar Airport that soldiers' movements could be seen with the naked eye.

There are about 4,000 soldiers and militiamen guarding the airport which now looks like a fortress. Between 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers, militiamen and trained members of the government are defending Qandahar which has a population of between 50,000 and 60,000.

On Sunday, guerrillas attacked and captured a security post seven kilometers northeast of the city destroying a tank and a truck and capturing two Army officers, resistance sources said.

Radio Kabul, in a dispatch monitored here, said Saturday that Afghan Government troops had seized control of the road linking Qandahar to Shahr-e Safa, 60 kilometres to the northeast, killing 12 mujahidin and capturing 80.

In an attack, saturday on an Afghan Army headquarters five kilometers east of the city, guerrillas destroyed a truck and a jeep killing 17 people on board, the sources said.

All the dead were members of the Afghan secret police Wad, previously known as Khad, including its Qandahar Secretary Latif Dilawar, the sources said.

Explosion Rocks Kabul Bazar; No Casualties

BK2306041489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0406 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 23 (AFP)—A loud explosion rocked the main bazar area here early Friday [23 June], but security men on the spot said no casualties had resulted from what appeared to have been a mujahidin rocket lobbed into shops.

The explosion, at 6.50 a.m. (0150 GMT), tore the roof off a small store selling chewing gum and other sundries and scattered shrapnel over adjacent shops in a back alley, witnesses said.

The security men said there appeared to have been no casualties as most shops were still shuttered and empty because it was a Friday morning, a Muslim holiday here.

Rockets fired by mujahidin rebels have fallen infrequently on the city in the past week, most of them in the vicinity of Kabul Airport.

Mujahidin Fire Rocket 'Barrage' Into Kabul

BK2306092689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 23 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels fired a barrage of at least 24 rockets into Kabul early Friday, killing three people and injuring 11, a senior military officer said.

Kabul Mayor Lieutenant General Muhammad Hakim said the rockets, most of them fired from areas to the north of the city, impacted in the central Wazirabad District, as well as in Khaikhana to the south of the capital's main airport.

The barrage of the surface-to-surface rockets was the largest since the weekend of June 3 and 4 when about 50 rockets hit the city leaving from 15 to 17 dead by an unofficial count.

One of those killed Friday morning was a young boy, Mayor Hakim said, adding that the other victims were men.

He said that there had been stepped-up activity on the outer security belt, some 40 kilometres north of the city in the past 10 days, with the mujahidin attempting to attack security posts.

The official said the attacks had failed, adding that several other posts had reported some fighting.

Four rockets fell on Kabul Thursday, and missiles also hit the city of two million Wednesday.

The mujahidin favour United States-supplied rockets which have a range of 32 kilometres and explode on impact. They have a destruction radius of 50 to 70 feet, experts say.

India

Gandhi To Meet Pakistan's Bhutto in July

BK2206160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has said the satellite program of the country will go on unhamphered despite the damage caused to INSAT-1D. Mr Rajiv Gandhi told newsmen at the Hubli helipad this evening that the center will examine the measures to be taken for the continuance of the country's satellite program.

In reply to a question to the Janata Dal criticism of the India-Pakistan talks on Siachen, Mr Gandhi said the opposition is not competent to comment on the foreign policy as it does not have any definite stand on international affairs.

He indicated that Siachen is likely to come up for discussion when he meets Ms Bhutto during his visit to Paris next month.

Gandhi on U.S. Trade Act

BK2306033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that the country's satellite program will continue unhampered despite the damage caused to INSAT-1D. Talking to newsmen at Hubli yesterday evening, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that all possible measures will be reviewed to continue the program.

Addressing public meetings in Karnataka and Maharashtra, the prime minister called upon the people to cooperate in setting right socioeconomic imbalances. He said only this can achieve the desired results in all fields of development. Stating that even the current measures are insufficient for the total eradication of poverty, the prime minister said more steps will have to be initiated to reach our goal. He cautioned the people against the elements trying to obstruct the country's march toward progress.

The prime minister reiterated that India will not yield to pressures of foreign powers.

Referring to the Super 301 U.S. Trade Act, Mr Gandhi said that it is an attempt to check the country's aim to achieve self-sufficiency. He reiterated that India will not hold talks with the United States on this matter. The prime minister charged the opposition parties with being silent on the U.S. move. He said the country is determined to go ahead with its chosen path of progress and unity. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Confirms Gandhi's Reply to Premadasa

BK2206161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has confirmed press reports that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had sent reply to the letter written by the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa. When newsmen pointed to the reports in a section of the press regarding the contents of the prime minister's reply, the spokesman clarified that it is not the practice of the government to reveal, let alone elaborate, the contents of the letters addressed by the prime minister to heads of state or government or those received by him.

The spokesman further said that India's position on various issues had been stated on earlier occasions and these statements do not amount to revealing the contents of the prime minister's letter which were not known to the spokesman, as he put it.

Spokesman Clarifies Foreign Secretary's Remarks

BK2206162389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] It has been officially stated that the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, had only endorsed whatever the Pakistan foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, had

said about their 3-day talks in Islamabad on bilateral relations. An official spokesman gave this clarification in New Delhi today regarding the reports in some newspapers on the press conference in Islamabad by the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India. The spokesman made it clear that the Indian foreign secretary had not endorsed anything the Pakistani foreign secretary said about the discussions between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan.

The spokesman said that the chronology of events had been muddled and confused and expressed the hope that it was not done deliberately.

Pakistan, U.S. Blamed for Kashmir Violence

BK2306072289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0657 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 23 (AFP)—Home Minister Buta Singh has blamed Pakistan and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for the Muslim fundamentalist violence in India's northern Jammu and Kashmir State, a local paper said Friday [23 June].

The INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper quoted Mr. Buta Singh as saying that while Islamabad was "directly responsible for aiding and abetting anti-national elements" in the Kashmir Valley, the CIA was operating through the pro-Pakistan Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

The outlawed JKLF is the most active Muslim group in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in Hindu-dominated India.

New Delhi has traditionally blamed neighbouring Pakistan, with which India has waged three wars, for Moslem militancy and Sikh separatism in the country, but it was the first time a federal minister has named the CIA.

The EXPRESS said Mr. Buta Singh, who recently went to Jammu and Kashmir, made the charges in an "informal chat" here. The minister did not elaborate and could not be reached Friday for comment.

Several people have been killed and injured in Jammu and Kashmir in recent weeks in violence blamed on Moslem militants. New Delhi alleges they are backed by Pakistan, but Islamabad has denied the charge.

The EXPRESS quoted Mr. Buta Singh as saying that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto did not harbour "any ill will" towards India and that she was "bound by domestic compulsions in allowing anti-India activities" on Pakistani territory.

Mr. Buta Singh added that authorities were facing "certain problems" in arresting people involved in the violence in Jammu and Kashmir, which is ruled by the regional pro-Moslem National Conference party. He did not elaborate.

Jammu and Kashmir is disputed by Islamabad which controls one-third of the state. Indian and Pakistani troops have frequently clashed on their common border.

Mr. Buta Singh's charge against the CIA came two days after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi alleged that the West, particularly the United States, was making "efforts to scuttle India's progress in the field of defence".

Rao Comments on U.S. Trade 'Hit List'

BK2306065189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said India has no obligations to subject its economic policies to any outside scrutiny. Mr Rao was addressing a special ministerial meeting of developing countries at Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday. He deplored the tendency of some major industrialized countries to force their will on trading partners and to adopt coercive means to penetrate their markets in the name of liberalization.

Mr Rao's remarks were apparently made in light of the recent U.S. decision to place India, Japan, and Brazil on a trade hit list. The external affairs minister is leading the Indian delegation at the 3-day meeting being held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Group of 77 developing nations.

Commentary on Conditions for IPKF Withdrawal

BK2206115989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jun 89

[S. Verma commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been extremely cautious in reacting to some alarmist reports from Colombo suggesting that Sri Lanka would internationalize the situation arising from its demand for the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Forces [IPKF]. Reports from Colombo had suggested that in case India did not withdraw the IPKF on July 29, the second anniversary of the Indian-Sri Lankan agreement, Sri Lanka would approach the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice at the Hague. Asked by newsmen for his reaction, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi replied that it would be better to await authentic news from Colombo rather than go by press reports.

The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has since denied that there is any move on his government's part to internationalize the matter. Let us overlook press statements appearing at various times and let us wait for the prime minister's reply, he is reported to have told an opposition member in parliament. The minister's denial is reassuring. However, the fact that such alarmist reports should emanate from Colombo at all is suggestive of the propaganda plank which Colombo is trying to build in support of its demand. Ever since [Sri Lankan President] Premadasa articulated his view

that the IPKF should be withdrawn by July 29, strident voices have been coming from all across the Palk Strait regardless of the stresses and strains such attitude can introduce into the India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations. President Premadasa's demand was raised after the Sri Lankan Government initiated what was described as informal dialogue with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] leadership. The LTTE was forced to come to the negotiating table largely because of the pressures applied on it during the last 2 years by the IPKF. Thanks to the IPKF's sustained efforts to curb LTTE violence, their dominance over the Tamil areas was considerably reduced. The talks between the LTTE leadership and President Premadasa appeared poised for a compromise in which the LTTE would be satisfied, if its supremacy is recognized in the Northern Province. In turn, this would mean that the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, a key Tamil demand, would be rendered a dead issue. Secondly, the extremist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] has made the presence of the IPKF the main issue in its campaign of violence against the Sri Lankan Government. In pursuit of its hate campaign it has turned its wrath against India involving a boycott of Indian goods and a demand for sending back Indians who have recently been given Sri Lankan citizenship.

The LTTE and the JVP, although at daggers drawn so far, seem to have found a common cause. Their combined pressure on President Premadasa apparently drove him to demand in public and not through diplomatic channels as is usual in international relations for the withdrawal of the IPKF on a fixed deadline. The LTTE obviously hopes that once the IPKF withdraws, the government of the elected Eelam Revolutionary Liberation Front and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front would be dissolved and the power handed over to it. This is all very well as far as aims and calculations go. However, an agreement signed bilaterally between the two nations cannot be made null and void unilaterally, which is what President Premadasa is seeking to do.

India has its obligations under the July 29, 1987 agreement which it could not abandon merely because one party to the agreement feels uncomfortable in implementing its provisions faithfully. After all, the IPKF went to Sri Lanka at the invitation of that country's president and its sacrifices in terms of human lives cannot be written off without the stipulated aim and objective being achieved. The aim and objective was to ensure the security of the Tamils in a framework of unity and integrity, in short, that the powers specified by the agreement get devolved on the Tamil minority and that their rights are fully protected.

In his reply to the Sri Lankan president, sent from New Delhi on Wednesday [21 June], Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that the withdrawal of the IPKF could be effected not on unilateral demand, but through mutual consultations and simultaneous implementation of the agreement, specifically, its causes relating to the devolution of effective power to the provincial council, the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces after a referendum, and the creation of a credible law and order machinery would need to be implemented. The prime minister has also drawn Sri Lanka's attention to the Government of India's January 1, 1989 statement clearly committing itself to a phased withdrawal of the IPKF. Further withdrawals would be made as the situation in the northeastern region improves, devolution of power becomes effective, and as the mischief making potential of extremists opposed to the agreement is reduced. It is not as if India is desirous of stationing the IPKF for an inordinate length of time. Indeed, a large part of the force has already been withdrawn.

Commentary Reviews History of Siachen Dispute
BK1606120089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Jun 89

[K.S. Ramamurthy commentary: "Talks on Siachen Glacier"]

[Text] India and Pakistan are having official-level talks in Islamabad on the ownership of the Siachen Glacier since January 1986. The four previous rounds yielded no agreed solution. The current meeting is the first after the elections in Pakistan. The Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, who is the first democratically elected premier of that country for several years, said in February that Siachen is an unnecessary irritation. So it is because the Siachen Glacier at a height of 5,400 to 6,000 meters bound on the north by the Karakoram and on the south by the Saltoro Range is of no real strategic significance. India claims this area since the whole of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India in 1947 and Pakistan says it had been under its administrative control throughout.

During the fifties and the sixties, when the Kashmir dispute was at its height, the glacier was not an area of conflict. But in 1963, Pakistan and China entered into a border treaty with the Karakoram Pass constituting the eastern most point separating the two countries. India did not recognize that any Sino-Pakistan border existed since the border area was part of Kashmir and therefore constituted Indian territory. During the Simla talks in 1972, a large number of maps were negotiated and signed. The actual line of control was demarcated for the first time. The Siachen Glacier was not demarcated then. Even so, Pakistan claimed ownership rights over it from 1974 onwards by organizing mountaineering expeditions. Then in June 1978, the Chinese-built 800 km all-weather Karakoram Highway was introduced. This introduced a qualitative change in the situation. India then protested against the opening of the highway, which passed through Kashmir territory. The highway is about 250 km from the Siachen Glacier.

In the summer of 1984, India took over the entire glacier, including the two passes of Sia La and Bilafond La. This operation had to be undertaken to prevent Pakistan from moving into the glacier. Pakistan had

unilaterally extended in August 1983 the line of control mutually agreed and signed after the 1971 war. By extending the line to the Karakoram Pass, Pakistan staked a claim to about 4,000 square km of territory lying to the northwest of this extension. India had to ensure that it was not presented by the fait accompli.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and General Ziaul Haq agreed during the meeting in New York in October 1985 to resolve the Siachen problem through negotiations. Four rounds of talks at the defense secretary-level since January 1986 have produced no result. After the third round in May last year, the two sides agreed to examine certain specific proposals at the next round. The proposals were not spelled out. A communique issued at the end of the fourth round in September last year mainly said that the two sides had agreed to meet again.

Last month, the prime minister's principal aide on foreign policy, Mr Ronen Sen, was in Islamabad for talks with among others Ms Benazir Bhutto. Press reports suggested that a package to declare the icy wasteland a demilitarized zone was discussed. This in practice means withdrawal of troops and restoration of the position as it existed at the time of the Simla agreement. That agreement barred the use of force in relation to any aspect of the Kashmir problem. The principle provides the only means of ensuring a peaceful solution.

Editorial on Appointment of New Envoy to U.S.

BK2306095989 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 17 Jun 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Dr Karan Singh's Appointment"]

[Text] The appointment of [former union minister] Dr Karan Singh as the ambassador to the United States comes as a surprise. The practice has been to appoint top-notch Foreign Service officials as ambassadors to the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Pakistan. However, the Janata Party government had appointed attorney Nani Palkhiwala as the ambassador to the United States to provide semblance that it wanted to lift ties with the United States to a new level. Perhaps, the Rajiv Gandhi government is trying to convey the same message by appointing Dr Karan Singh as its envoy to Washington and giving him a cabinet rank.

Dr Karan Singh's image has been one of an able administrator who imparted a new dynamism to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. But he also became a controversial figure during the vasectomy campaign launched by Sanjay Gandhi during the period of emergency and he could not come out of it with a clean image. Dr Karan Singh has now taken a new image by staying aloof from politics for the last 10 to 12 years and uniting Hindu forces and dedicating himself to the cause of Hinduism, which makes him a credible descendant of a Hindu maharaja. Dr Karan Singh is going to Washington with this image. Although he cannot be compared to Dr Radhakrishnan, who was ambassador to the Soviet Union in fifties, Dr Karan Singh, like Dr Radhakrishnan, is also a proven scholar of Indian philosophy. His presence will erase the stigma attached to Indian philosophy caused by Guru Rajnish's acts in the United States. Secondly, his cultured, modest personality and sharp knowledge of Hindi and English also conform to the post of ambassador.

But, Dr Karan Singh's challenges are also enormous. He has to work as the ambassador of a secular state and not as a cultured envoy. Today, the United States is displeased with India and the refreshing atmosphere created by Rajiv Gandhi's 1985 visit to Washington has evaporated. The United States is raising its eyebrows at the launching of India's Agni missile and has thrown a Super 301 trade thunderbolt at us. Arms are being supplied to Pakistan with open hands as usual. Although Rajiv Gandhi maintains friendly relations with George Bush and his visit to India is anticipated, relations between the two countries at present are difficult and Dr Karan Singh has to deal with this.

It is not easy to comprehend the political mathematics of Dr Karan Singh's appointment. One theory can be that considering his influence on the Hindu voters in Jammu, Udhampur, and Kangda constituencies, Congress-I has made a smart move because every seat is significant in the coming general elections.

Iran

Montazeri's Son, Daughter Reported Under Arrest

TA2206184589 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] It is being said in Tehran that Ayatollah Montazeri's son and daughter, as well as Seyyed Hadi Hashemi, his son-in-law, have been imprisoned. The regime's agents are trying, through torture, to induce Hadi Hashemi to appear on television and make statements against Ayatollah Montazeri, his father-in-law. So far, however, they have not succeeded.

Ansari on Ahmad Khomeyni's Role

LD2206151389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Unidentified announcer's interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, member of Khomeyni's office; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] Mr Ansari, the following question is being posed by the friends and supporters of the Islamic revolution: What are the plans of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Aqa Ahmad Khomeyni, who was always on the side of his holiness the imam, and who enjoyed the imam's love and trust?

[Ansari] I think that His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa, in the same way that he spent the greater part of his life with sincerity and devotion at the side of the imam, and those who have been privy to the scenes in the life of the imam from close quarters know that Haj Ahmad Aqa devoted his life and his endeavors throughout the blissful life of the imam for the sake of the protection of the life, the dignity, and the position of the imam. His holiness the imam had a great deal of affection for him.

When we have been with His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Ahmad Aqa we have never hear a word which would indicate his participation, or his aim to participate in political issues as a goal. Always on the side of his holiness the imam, he always said: If I can have the opportunity to spend my life for the sake of protecting and serving the imam, it would be my greatest honor. However, I think that society expects a person who has been trained at the side of the imam, who has watched all the moments of the life of the imam from close quarters, who has been on the side of the imam with love and devotion, and who was also the object of the imam's love and devotion, who always praised him from political, religious, moral and scientific points of view, society expects of a high-ranking individual like him to be always on the stage in the path of the advancement of the aspirations of the imam; and this is also what he intends to do. Therefore, after the appointment of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, you noticed that this great figure [Ahmad Khomeyni], with great humility, said in the presence of Ayatollah Khamene'i: I, like a brother, like a minor servant, am prepared to follow your plans and your leadership.

Therefore, with his own permission, I can say that Haj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa will remain right to the end as a servant in the service of the system, and that he will decisively follow the imam's aspirations. However, in connection with the issues which are being raised these days, and the current rumors and talk [rumor that Ahmad Khomeyni may declare himself a candidate for presidency] I should say that so far no firm decision has been made by him regarding these issues, so that we can say with certainty and firmness what his goals are in the service of the revolution. However, in general let me say—and I say it on the basis of public support and public demands—that His Excellency Ahmad Aqa will remain on the side of the system and in the service of the system to the last moment and to the last breath.

If our dedication to the system and to the leadership is of such an extent that we feel that we should remain faithful to the last moment of our lives, most certainly his devotion both to the imam and to the system is more than ours. I also—not like someone who had a position and who was with the imam and in the presence of the imam, but as a Muslim and a citizen—am very anxious to learn of his plans and his thoughts and the plans that he has for the promotion of the aims of the imam, so that society can benefit from his services. I continue to request him to inform us of this sacred trend. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] His Excellency Mr Ansari, in view of the time which we still have left to the end of our program, I would like to ask you two questions. The first one concerns the arrangements made for staging ceremonies to mark the 40th day after his holiness the imam's death. I will ask you the next question when the next opportunity arises. Please explain some details about that upcoming occasion, as plans are certainly being drawn up for that commemorative ceremony.

[Ansari] The details of the 40th day ceremonies will be, God willing, announced by the headquarters in charge of mourning ceremonies for Khomeyni and by the mass media. For the time being I would like to inform the listeners that a comprehensive program has been arranged for the 40th day. That program will take place at the location of the blessed burial site of his holiness the imam, on the basis of a timetable and our particular itinerary. However, in view of our experience from the ceremonies marking the 7th day after his holiness the imam passsed away—when due to lack of time and shortage of facilities we were not able to provide a befitting reception for the people—we are hoping—God willing—to stage the 40th day ceremonies with grace and magnificence, through extensive planning aimed at providing various programs.

The details of our programs, which involve all executive and publicity organs of the country, will be described at the appropriate time. But to put it briefly, I must say that all of the country's organs—be they executive, military, or security—will be contributing their efforts aimed at providing facilities for those who seek to participate in the great and magnificent 40th day ceremonies. They will be looking after security, order, services, and the implementation of other programs. Of course we will be utilizing people's suggestions and ideas. In an earlier program [radio or television] I apologized to the people because some of them suffered injuries for his holiness the imam and the revolution on the ceremonies to mark the 7th day after the imam's death. We hope that such occurences will be minimized, although I must explain that our plans go as far as our abilities allow, given the nature of people's emotions for his holiness the imam and their love for him. The emotions and feelings of the people, however, are so overwhelming and extensive that perhaps they will deprive us of the ability to continue our organizational plans.

Of course the exact date for the ceremonies and those speaking in it will be announced in the headquarters statements, or such details will be announced directly by notable figures, in particular our esteemed master [sarvar] His Excellency Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

[Announcer] What is the exact date for that ceremony?

[Ansari] The exact date, as predicted by us, is the 'Arafeh day, that is Friday 'id-e Qorban [Friday, 14 July]. This is because on that day two prayers are carried out, and people will want to participate in such religio-political rites. We will be marking that day by the blessed and pure burial site of his holiness the imam. As the way to the blessed Mecca and to the Prophet's shrine is blocked, we will be remembering those who were martyred due the horrific crime of the al-Sa'ud, next to the blessed burial site of his holiness the imam and on the 'Arafeh day. Of course this plan is only provisional, and should there be changes we will naturally inform the people about them. [passage omitted]

Constitution Reappraisal Council Decision Noted
NC2106085489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Text] The 23d General Assembly of the Council of Reappraisal of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran met yesterday afternoon with Ayatollah Meshkini in the chair.

After Koranic recitions, the Council started its discussions according to the agenda and deliberations were carried out on the report prepared by the Committee for Centralization in the Management of the Judiciary Branch. Proposed amended articles and supplements were discussed. After explanations by the rapporteur, the propounding of views by the members of the Council, and the voicing of views for and against, the following were ratified:

Article 91: A council to be known as the Council of Guardians will be formed in order to safeguard the teachings of Islam and the Constitution as far as the nonconformity of the decisions adopted by the Majlis with them. This council will be formed of the following: six judicious scholars who are well acquainted with the exigencies of time and problems of the day who will be selected by the leader or the leadership council and six lawyers from the various fields of law from among Muslim lawyers who will be introduced by the head of the judiciary branch to the Majlis and who will be selected with the vote of the Majlis.

In this article, the title "Supreme Judicial Council" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch."

Article 110: The duties and authorities of the leadership: 1) to assign jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians; 2) to assign the highest ranking official in the Judiciary Branch; 6) to pardon or reduce the sentences of convicts within the limits of Islamic norms after a proposal by the head of the Judiciary Branch.

In paragraph two of this article the title "the highest ranking judicial official of the country" has been changed to "the highest ranking official of the Judiciary Branch."

Article 121: The president will be sworn in at a session of the Majlis in the presence of the head of the Judiciary Branch and members of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution. In this article the phrase "the head of the Supreme Court" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch."

Article 130 says that the head of the Judiciary Branch will participate in the council which will be formed during the absence or illness of the president. In this article, too, the phrase "the head of the Supreme Court" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch."

Article 157: The leadership will appoint a just mojtahed [qualified jurisprudent] who is aware of judiciary affairs and with efficient managerial skills for a period of 5 years as head of the Judiciary Branch to implement the responsibilities of the Judiciary Branch in all the judiciary, administrative, and executive affairs. He will hold the highest rank in the Judiciary Branch and will have the following duties: the creation of the necessary facilities in the extension of justice in conformity with the responsibilities stated in Article 156; the preparation of judiciary bills in conformity with the Islamic Republic; and employing just and able judges, appointing or discharging judges, changing their place of duty, determining their duties, promoting them, and other such administrative affairs. According to law, in this article, too, the phrase "the Supreme Judicial Council" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch."

Article 158 has been omitted.

Article 160: The minister of justice is charged with the responsibility of all affairs pertaining to relations between the Judiciary Branch and the Executive and Legislative Branches. He will be selected from among the people proposed by the head of the Judiciary Branch to the president. The head of the Judiciary Branch can hand over full financial and administrative authorities, as well as nonjudiciary recruitment authorities to the Minister of Justice. Thus, the Minister of Justice will have the same authorities and duties that are foreseen in laws for ministers as the highest ranking executive officials. In the first part of this article, the phrase "Supreme Judicial Council" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch." In the second part, the phrase "the head of the Judiciary Branch can [hand over full financial and administrative authorities]" has been added to this article.

Article 161: The Supreme Court will be formed on the basis of rules to be established by the head of the Judiciary Branch in order to supervise the correct implementation of laws in courts, in order to create a uniformity in legal procedures, and in order to carry out the

duties vested in it by law. In this article the phrase "Supreme Judicial Council" has been changed to "the head of the Judiciary Branch."

The session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution ended at 1930 [1600 GMT] yesterday. The discussions are to continue today.

Council Approves Amendments

NC2206180489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The 24th General Session of the Council for the Reappraisal of Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was convened under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini yesterday.

During the session, debate on the recommendations of subcommittee No 3 continued during the second reading of the committee's report. Following a submission of proposals on the recommendations by the members of the council and speeches for and against, clarifications were made by the rapporteur and the articles on centralization in the judiciary approved as follows:

Article 162: The president of the Supreme Court and the prosecutor general should be mojtaheds [qualified jurisprudents], well versed in judicial issues. The head of the judiciary will appoint them for a period of 5 years after consultations with judges or the Supreme Court of the country.

In this article the term leadership has been changed to the term head of the judiciary.

Article: 164: Judges shall not be dismissed provisionally or permanently without due process of law and establishment of their crime or offense as giving grounds for such dismissal, nor shall they be transferred to other posts without their prior consent, except in cases where the interests of society so demand. Such decisions shall be effected with the approval of the head of the judiciary, following consultations with the president of the Supreme Court and the prosecutor general. Periodic transfer of judges shall take place according to the general regulations determined by the law.

In this article the phrase with the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council members is to be replaced with the phrase with the approval of the head of the judiciary, following consultations with the president of the Supreme Court and the prosecutor general.

Article 173: A tribunal called the Administrative Court of Justice shall be formed under the supervision of the head of the judiciary to investigate public complaints and protests against government officials, units, or regulations as well as to administer justice and establish the people's rights. The jurisdiction and the modus operandi of this tribunal is to be determined by law.

In this article the phrase Supreme Judicial Council is to be replaced with the phrase head of the judiciary.

Article 174: Based on the right of the judiciary to ensure a satisfactory state of affairs and proper execution of laws in administrative organizations, an institution called the General Inspectorate Organization [Sazeman-e Bazrasi-ye Koll-e Keshvar] shall be formed under the supervision of the head of the judiciary. The jurisdiction and the procedures under which this institution will operate will be determined by law.

In this article, the term Supreme Judicial Council has been changed to the term head of the judiciary.

Following the conclusion of the second reading of the report of subcommittee No 3 and the approval of the amendments, subcommittee No 2 presented its report on the centralization in the executive branch. Further deliberations are postponed until the next session to be held today at 1600.

Official Announces Program for Armed Forces

NC2306084789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Mr Shamkhani, deputy for operations and information at the Military Command Headquarters, who is on a visit to the southern areas to inspect the situation at the fronts in the south, said to the Central News Unit correspondent that the acting commander in chief has announced that the 3d quarter of the current year has been designated for training, practice, and maneuvers for the Armed Forces. It is the duty of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain constant readiness until the cease-fire becomes a permament peace.

Mr Shamkhani added: The morale and condition of the forces, readiness, and its utilization of possibilities in this quarter will be reviewed and assessed within the framework of a specified program.

The deputy for operations and information at the military command headquarters added: During this visit, the quality of training, weapons preparation, and the daily schedule of the Armed Forces have been inspected, and we will also assess the maneuvers. He continued: The feeling in the Armed Forces today as well as in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] is such that the sorrow caused by the heartrending demise of his eminence the imam, may God's blessings be on him, praise be to God, has been transformed into a spirit of preparedness in the Armed Forces. With the blessing of the careful and appropriate choice of the Assembly of Experts, the Armed Forces feel that they have a strong leader and commander at the helm who will steer them toward the attainment of the objectives of his eminence the imam.

Larijani Comments on Post-Khomeyni Priorities

NC2206200989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 89 p 3

[Commentary by Dr Javad Larijani: "The Next Decade: Some basic Issues"]

[Text] 1. As I have said on a number of occasions, it will be a great mistake to think that a revolution is strong if it does not face too many problems. The authentic strength of revolution emanates from two sources: Its ability to decide and cope with problems and the roots through which it connects itself to its proponents.

2. Imam Khomeyni was a divine gift for the whole Islamic "Ummah;" and during his magnificent life, he created a "legend" which will influence the whole intellectual and political thinking in the Islamic world for long years to come. No doubt, his death is a great loss for the nation, revolution and the Islamic world with no real replacement.

3. The swift decision of the "Assembly of Experts" on the next leadership is another proof of the strength of the revolution. Thank God, the system is working: The nation picked up its best son, a true soldier of Islam, to lead the Republic.

In less than two months, we will have the presidential election, and by all counts, Mr. Rafsanjani, the speaker of parliament, appears to be the consolidation of the revolution in Iran.

4. Right people in the right positions: This is a major achievement but only the beginning of a long road! What will be the top priorities of a new leadership in Iran for the coming years? In my opinion, all efforts of the leadership and the new administration should be centered around three basic issues.

One: Consolidation and further deepening of the prestigious position which Iran enjoy within and across the Islamic world;

Two: Building on effective and reliable defense, based on philosophy of deterrence and popular participation.

Three: A general mobilization of the nation for comprehensive and all pervasive programs for total restructuring of the economy, social well-being and education.

Editorial Lauds Khamene'i's Selection

NC2206193689 Tehran KEYHAN in English 12 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "A Wise Selection"]

[Text] The selection of a new leader for the Islamic Republic of Iran one day after the passing of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, as usual amazed political and news analysts worldwide.

The selection of the new leader stunned the foreign media, which for years have been fabricting reports on the political climate of the Islamic regime in Iran. This latest event proved to them that happenings in Iran are beyond the ken of what they predict.

The peak of bewilderment for the enemies of the Islamic Revolution was reached when they understood Ayatollah Khamene'i had been voted in as the new leader of the Islamic Republic regime. The 74-member Council of Experts voted overwhelmingly for Khamene'i in an emergency session held on June 4, 1989. Immediately after, Ayatollah Khamene'i received nationwide support from all the government and religious figures, as well as the Muslim people in Iran and across the Islamic world.

Hojjaat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni issued a proclamation in which he expressed his satisfaction with the Council's choice and emphasized his obedience to the new leader.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the council's choice "the best selection" and pledged fealty to the new leader. In addition, the 'ulema of the theological schools in Qom and the Society of Combatant 'Ulema of Tehran all lauded the decision. Iran's Armed Forces, Majlis deputies, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his cabinet, and leading organizations have sworn allegiance to the newly-elected leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

What gladdens the Iranian people about the new leader are his well-known characteristics which cast a bright future for the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some of those traits are as follows:

—His knowledge of fiqh (islamic canon law) which according to Haj Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni, quoting Imam Khomeyni, said that Ayatollah Khamene'i's knowledge of figh is at the level of a mojtahed (the highest level for a theologian).

—His commitment towards Islam which began with his birth into a religious family and continued at theological schools and blossomed after the advent of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

—His popularity among the 'ulema and masses of people.

—His political leadership, ability and awareness of which Ayatollah Khamene'i, as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led the country for eight crucial years.

—His political activities and struggle against the former regime, under the direction of Imam Khomeyni.

Imam Khomeyni in his testament willed that the new leader in this era of aggression by the superpowers against the Islamic Republic and Iran, must commit himself (or themselves) to serve Islam, the Islamic Republic and all the mostaz'afan (the oppressed people).

The proven met
man and people
le of the Islamic Republic's new helms-
leader, Insha'Al
s firm support and obedience to the new
revolution to ex
ah (God willing), will help the Islamic
realize Imam K
and to all corners of the world and thus
homeyni's vision.

IAEA Chief I
LD2206171689
spects Bushehr Power Plant
1645 GMT 22 J
Tehran IRNA in English
un 89

[Text] Bushehr,
the Internation
June 22, IRNA—Secretary-General of
Blix today inspe
l Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans
trary to all intec
ted Bushehr nuclear plant, which con-
repeated air rai
national regulations was the target of
s by Iraq during its 8-year aggression.

Upon arrival in
IAEA was read
this southern port-city, Blix said that
damage inflicte
y to cooperate with Iran to estimate
technical points
on the plant from the economic and
of view.

In open violatio
atomic installat
n of the IAEA charter against raids on
raided by the Ir
ions, the Bushehr nuclear plant was
1984, February
aqis a total of six times: on March 24,
and twice in No
2, 1985, March 5, 1985, July 12, 1986,
vember, 1987.

Iran's complaint
mute response,
s to the IAEA after every attack drew
reiterated the ne
ut today after witnessing the plant, Blix
ed for security of nuclear installations.

Nuclear installat
ation leak could
ions are highly sensitive, and any radi-
ment and ecolog
prove dangerous to the human environ-
y.

Elsewhere, Blix
lead to pollution
said that since other fuels including oil,
ated through ato
an intensive need for electricity gener-
nic energy is felt in most world countries.

In case of progre
the two superpo
s in nuclear disarmament talks between
around the glob
wers, and if peace finally gets a chance
weapons will red
e, the danger of expansion of nuclear
follow up and co
uce, and IAEA would have a chance to
ntrol the issue, Blix hoped.

Nepal

Political Party
BK1906085889 L
Assails Government Trade Policy
0830 GMT 19 Ju
Delhi Domestic Service in English
n 89

[Text] The Nep
Nepalese Govern
ali Congress Party has criticized the
transit treaty issu
ment for its handling of the trade and
biggest political
ue with India. The party, which is the
the Indo-Nepales
rganization in Nepal, said the impasse in
preserve the unde
e relations was the result of efforts to
mocratic political system in the kingdom.

A UNI [UNITED
mandu says the
O NEWS OF INDIA] report from Kath-
gress [Party] beg
Central Committee of the Nepali Con-
n a 3-day meeting yesterday to discuss
steps to end its 4 year passive existence. The party also accused the Kathmandu government of preventing a peaceful solution to the Indo-Nepal trade issue.

The agency report says that the party intends to appeal to King Birendra to control the inflation which resulted after the expiry of the treaty.

Meanwhile, some student groups have been warning the university authorities on nationwide demonstrations if colleges were not reopened and the students released.

Politician Questions Arms Purchases From PRC
BK1806034089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Veteran Nepalese politician and social worker, Mr Dilli Raman Regni, has asked the Nepal Government to disclose to the people the amount of arms it has imported from China. The 76-year-old leader could not comprehend the need for anti-aircraft missiles for a tiny nation like Nepal. In an interview to a Nepali-language daily, Mr Regni stressed that India and Nepal could not be in isolation because of their geographical locations.

Nepali Congress Party Asks King To Hold Polls
BK2306040589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] The Nepali Congress [the banned largest political party in Nepal] has appealed to the king of Nepal to constitute a national government to tide over the present difficulties in the country. A political resolution adopted by the Central Committee of the party has also appealed to King Birendra to hold general elections on the majority basis.

The resolution says the country is passing through an unprecedented crisis and the people are suffering mainly because of the scarcity of essential commodities. It further says that one of the immediate causes of the present crisis is the impasse following the expiry of the trade and transit treaty between India and Nepal. The main reason is the reactionary partyless panchayat [parliamentary] system that has been in vogue in the country for the last 29 years.

Pakistan

Bhutto Rebuts Ziaul Haq's 'Anti-Arab' Policy
PM2306103189 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 19 Jun 89 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Mazhar Hasan Siddiqi in Islamabad; date not given]

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto charged late president Muhammad Ziaul Haq was "anti-Arab," blasted his foreign policy and said she would like to rebuild her country's relations with Islamic states, most importantly the Arab world.

Thirty-six-year-old Bhutto spoke to the GAZETTE in her chambers at the National Assembly after returning from a successful trip to the United States.

In her wide-ranging interview—the first she has given to an English language newspaper in the Kingdom since coming to power on December 2—she repeatedly attacked the policies of Ziaul Haq and underscored the new approach her government has adopted on a number of issues.

For the past decade, Pakistan's external relations revolved around Afghanistan only. "This one-dimensional policy," of Ziaul Haq, she said, had rendered Pakistan "quite isolated."

She recalled the ties here deposed and executed father, prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had established with the Arab and Muslim states and spoke about his marathon tours to different Arab states.

She charged that Ziaul Haq was anti-Arab. "I have information in my records, in my possession which shows how anti-Islam he was," she declared. She also said because of security reasons "I am not in a position (to divulge) it."

Bhutto said she was shocked to learn that Ziaul Haq and his close associates had links with "powers, interests and influences" which were totally inimical to the Arab world.

Beaming with success in the United States, Bhutto said unlike in the past, Pakistan's relationship with Washington would not be "one-dimensional." Over the past 10 years, the relations were dominated by the Afghanistan question alone. The relationship with the United States should not have been built on one-pillar, she thought.

"Our relationship was above and beyond the simple question of Afghanistan. It was a relationship in which we shared perceptions on important regional and international issues, and in which we shared concerns about human rights, narcotics control and non-proliferation (of arms)," she said.

The prime minister did not answer questions on Pakistan's relation with the Soviet Union. She also did not reply to questions about the situation in Sind or relations with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the centre-provincial relations.

Bhutto also refused to discuss whether or not she could convince the Bush administration on Pakistan's nuclear programme.

On domestic issues, questions about G.M. Syed's separatist movement, the return of stranded Pakistani's from Bangladesh did not draw a response. The following are the details of the interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

She called the situation in Afghanistan as most complex and said it has entered the "most difficult phase" with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. "The final stages are usually the most complex and most difficult, and Afghanistan is a case in that direction," she said.

Bhutto said her government was keen to promote a political settlement, and unlike Ziaul Haq she has "no favourites." Ziaul Haq, she alleged, wanted to impose "a particular order" upon the people of Afghanistan. Bhutto said, "neither the British succeeded in doing so nor the Soviets could succeed in doing that. What we want is the abiding goodwill of the people of that country "who will for always be our neighbours." [quotation marks as published]

She said pressure should be built up to have a political settlement which should be acceptable to the people of Afghanistan. "That is why we wish to see the establishment of a broad-based government which holds elections and enables the people of Afghanistan to choose their own government," she explained.

In this connection, she said, Pakistan is calling for the Kabul regime to step aside and pave the way for a political settlement.

Bhutto said her government was not in direct contact with the government in Kabul.

The prime minister said she met Prince Bandar Ibn-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington, during her visit to the United States but avoided saying whether her talks with him covered recognition of the interim government of the mujahidin.

There were different imperatives for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to recognise the interim government, she said. Pakistan, as a signatory to the Geneva accord had some other considerations, she added.

Bhutto acknowledged that Saudi recognition was not only welcomed by the mujahidin but also by several other countries as it had a tremendous morale boosting impact. Her government was giving all support to the mujahidin short of formal recognition, she said.

Non-recognition of the interim government does not mean that Pakistan is playing into the hands of the Kabul administration which, she said, was claiming that "it is too closely identified with Islamabad."

The prime minister expressed concern over the firing of Agni missile by India recently. "I think all the countries that fall within the 2,400-km radius would be concerned by its launch."

She also expressed concern over the economic blockade of Nepal by India but said this issue cannot be taken up at the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation. Bhutto said: "A good start has been made towards

normalisation" of relations between Pakistan and India. "We hope that some progress may be made on the difficult question of the Siachin Glacier. We cannot say that all our problems will disappear overnight. The problems require patience, perseverance and tenacity to be resolved."

On reports that besides 60 F-16s Pakistan will buy from the United States Apaches, deadliest anti-tank helicopters, she said it would not be possible for her to comment on individual items. The United States and Pakistan shared security concern in the region. "The United States has helped us vis-a-vis our security needs," she added.

She declared that Pakistan does not want to upset the balance in the region. Whatever has been discussed or negotiated with the U.S. Administration has been in accord with the military balance of three-is-to-one. [as published]

"We do not want to see this balance to be upset and we are prepared to have talks on the question on arms control with India," she said.

Bhutto proposed that the two countries discuss the arms issue themselves instead of expressing concern every now and then. "Whatever India buys gives a cause for concern in Pakistan and whatever Pakistan buys may give cause for concern in India."

"Palestine is our own cause," she declared and said she would help in any way she could to support the struggle for Palestine.

Prime Minister Bhutto claimed that the drug money was being used to destabilise the situation in Pakistan and also to influence the parliamentarians.

"Now the drug is being used against our government and drug alliances are being set up," she said without pinpointing anybody.

I tell you that people have so much money that $2 billion is nothing for them. And this is 20 times more than the tax effort of a country like Pakistan," she said adding that the very raising of tax of Rs10 billion [presumably rupees, not riyals] was being opposed.

Bhutto said the campaign against drugs would continue even if the country did not get support from the United States as narcotics trade was a crime against humanity.

There are one million drug addicts in Pakistan, she disclosed and asserted that her government was committed to eradicate narcotics business.

"You better leave Pakistan and go to different shores, because if you stay within Pakistan you will be liable to the laws of the country and this is not a military regime, nor a corrupt regime: and we will show no mercy to any drug smuggler however powerful he might be and whatever links he might have," she said about the smugglers.

One smuggler was extradited, she said without identifying him. Her government has smashed heroin labs in the North-West Frontier Province and is on the track of other such establishments and their runners and smugglers.

The investment in the government's privatisation programme is the best and the safest means for the Pakistanis working abroad, she said.

The government will be selling shares to overseas Pakistanis in the country's oil and gas projects. It will also be asking them to buy shares in the PAKISTAN TIMES, a government-owned newspaper

Privatisation would allow selling of shares to general public. The first efforts towards privatisation of some projects in the public sector would be completed by May next year. The target is to collect 1.5 billion rupees. The second phase would cover two or three more privatisation projects. "Once we are able to do that the rest of the privatisation effort can be carried out much quicker," Bhutto assured.

She urged Pakistanis to come forward and invest through the government-sponsored privatisation projects.

The Prime Minister said her government has cracked down on some fradulent investment companies including the one owned by Samad, the most notorious in that business. She said Samad has been arrested and his assets are being relocated.

She assured that her government would make all possible efforts to get the poor people's money back from the racketeers.

Humayun Khan-Li Peng Meeting in Beijing Noted
BK2206153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The Chinese Premier, Li Peng, has said he will visit Pakistan according to schedule. He was speaking to Pakistan's foreign secretary, Humayun Khan, in Beijing yesterday.

Humayun Khan conveyed a message of good wishes to him on behalf of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Soviet Mothers Delegation Meets Mujahidin 22 Jun
BK2206143889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] The delegation of Soviet mothers, now in Pakistan to seek the release of their sons taken prisoners by the mujahidin during the Afghanistan war, met Afghan mujahidin who were handicapped in the war, in Peshawar today. They also met Afghan widows and mothers,

whose spouses and sons were martyred in the Afghanistan war. Later they said: We are very sad to see the handicapped Afghans and it is the combined sorrow of all of us.

The foreign minister of Afghanistan's interim government, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who arranged the meeting, said the mothers of the Soviet soldiers are very serious in their goal, but the Soviet Union is using it for propaganda.

According to their schedule, the delegation will return home from Islamabad today and will come back to Peshawar next week. [sentence as heard]

Bilateral Exchanges With India Finalized

BK2206042689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have reached agreement on a number of proposals aimed at providing greater opportunities of bilateral exchanges in various fields, including travel, tourism, culture, education, sports, and information. These proposals were finalized at the preparatory meeting of the third and fourth subcommissions of the India-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission in New Delhi yesterday. One of the proposals introduces a tourist-category visa under which tourists could visit up to eight areas in either country without reporting to the police. It was also proposed that more facilities should be provided at entry and exit points for visitors to both the countries. The two governments have also agreed to double the existing quota of pilgrims from each other's country.

Editorial on 'Bold' Nuclear Offer to India

BK2106122589 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Nuclear Offer to India"]

[Text] Pakistan's latest offer to India on the nuclear question is indeed a bold one. Speaking to a joint session of congress on Wednesday [7 June], Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan was willing to throw open its nuclear installations to inspection if other countries in the region did the same. The speech also contained two other elements of Pakistan's nuclear policy, namely, the need for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia and an agreement among Pakistan and its neighbours not to conduct a nuclear test. The prime minister coupled these offers with an emphatic declaration that Pakistan "will not provoke a nuclear arms race on the subcontinent." Taken as a whole the speech constitutes a clear enunciation of Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue and holds out hope for a lessening of tension in South Asia on this score if New Delhi is willing to respond to Pakistan's offer in a positive spirit. Obviously, New Delhi may not, because that would mean abandoning India's nuclear ambitions. Many impartial observers of South Asia's nuclear scene believe that India already possesses no fewer than 20 nuclear warheads and is in a po produce 20 to 40 nuclear bombs more within a osition to so of making a decision to do so. New Delh a week or developing a capability to manufactue hydrogenhi is also as confirmed by reports of American berylliumn bombs, its way to India from Germany. Besides, Indm finding more dependent on foreign sources for nuclear ndia is no for it is capable of manufacturing not only reactors, reactors but breeder reactors as well. y nuclear

Pakistan's position, on the other hand, is above- has not tested a nuclear device as India did in b-board. It it has only one nuclear reactor, the Karachi 1974 and Power Plant (KANUPP), which operates uni Nuclear international safeguards. Besides, it is a smallnder full plant which is engaged in supplying 136 megall nuclear electricity to Karachi. Since 1974, however, thawatts of oped world's response to the Indian nuclear ethe develhas been to punish Pakistan by imposing an ur explosion on the sale of nuclear reactors and other nucleanjust ban equipment to this country. Faced with this glear-related cott, Pakistan has been left with no choice but to lobal boywith its modest programme of acquiring nuclearo press on ogy. Some of the compulsions Pakistan has ir technolnuclear technology into service are obvious. Ts to press try's hydro-electric resources—undeniably The counable—are limited. Even the fullest exploitatio consider- potential would generate only 12,000 megavon of that below the 25,000 megawatts which is Pakistwatts, far jected demand by the end of the century. As tan's produces only about 40 percent of its needs for oil, it chunk of foreign exchange earnings going to pas, a huge oil imports. As for coal, the low-quality depositsay for the found here have yet to be exploited. With suits that are reservoir of the conventional sources of energy, uch a low is left with no choice but to concentrate on h, Pakistan nuclear energy to meet its growing power demaharnessing since transfers of nuclear technology for peacands. And have, if anything, proved even more difficult thceful uses fers of other technologies, it is obvious that Pakhan transgot to rely on its available scientific resources tkistan has the capacity to use the atom for numerous to acquire purposes. However, political prejudices seems peaceful made it extremely difficult for this country to m to have nuclear programme. pursue its

Islamabad has made it repeatedly clear that intention of manufacturing nuclear weapo it has no though India's nuclear explosion and its unbridons. Even ons-oriented programme have created problled weap- Pakistan, Islamabad has refused to give a militblems for tation to its nuclear efforts and has asked Newtary orienreciprocate—which it has not done. New Delhw Delhi to not reacted favourably to Pakistan's plea thahi has also the signing of a nuclear test ban treaty, the twat pending agree not to test a nuclear device. The onltwo should development is last December's Indo-Pakistly hopeful ment not to attack each other's nuclear instan agree- This is good as far as it goes, but a more nstallations. safeguard against the danger of nuclear prolifneaningful this region would be for India to prove its borferation in nafides by

agreeing to a test ban and mutual inspection of each other's nuclear installations as proposed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. If New Delhi is interested in avoiding a nuclear race in South Asia, as it repeatedly claims it is, it should have no hesitation in accepting Pakistan's latest offer on this score.

Sri Lanka

Premier's 21 Jun Remarks on Emergency Cited

BK2206122289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1131 GMT 22 Jun 89

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, moving a resolution under the Public Security Ordinance, told Parliament yesterday: "That the proclamation, dated 20th June, 1989 made by the president under Section 2 of the Public Security Ordinance (Chapter 40) as amended by Act No 8 of 1959 Law, No 6 of 1978 and Act No 28 of 1988, bringing into operation the provisions of Part 11 of the aforesaid ordinance throughout Sri Lanka, be approved".

"The emergency, which was in operation for over 5 years with effect from January 1983 was lifted by the president on 11th January, 1989, even before it lapsed, by revoking the proclamation made under the Public Security Ordinance.

"The president is very keen to bring peace and harmony to this country. He believes that problems can be solved only through discussions and negotiations and not through violence. Over 18,000 persons, who were held in detention at various camps were released unconditionally.

"However, acts of lawlessness by the subversives have not shown any remarkable decrease. Since the lifting of the emergency acts of violence, sabotage, and destruction to government property by subversive elements continued unabated. There has been nearly 1,700 killings since Janauary up-to-date. Over 500 members of political parties, their families, and supporters have been killed, some of them brutally.

"Nearly 120 government servants, 90 members of the police force, and 50 service personnel have also been killed during this period. Home guards, informants and innocent civilians, women and children have also been murdered.

"Recent reports indicate that subversive elements operating in various parts of the country are making every effort to disrupt government activities and cripple the economy. Many workers, both in the government and private sector have been forced to resort to strike action without any legitimate reason. Transport services have been disrupted. Essential services have got affected. This has created great hardship to the people of this country.

"The president has, on many occasions, appealed to those persons involved in committing acts of violence to meet him at the conference table to discuss their problems so that they may be able to enter the democratic process. Up to now there has been no satisfactory response from certain militant groups to his appeal. Instead, there has been a progressive escalation of violent acts of sabotage and disruption of essential services affecting the life of the community.

"The government has, therefore, reluctantly been compelled to invoke the provisions of Part 11 of the Public Security Ordinance and declare a state of emergency throughout the country in order to prevent this lawlessness and to create conditions favourable for normal life.

"I sincerely hope that all members of this house will support the government and extend their fullest cooperation to the security forces and to the police to maintain law and order and to ensure that the people of this country are able to live in peace and harmony. The government is making every effort to ensure that peace and harmony return to the whole island soon".

Wijeratne on Governmment Response to Rebels

BK2206141889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 22 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, June 22 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan authorities will take anti-government militants "head on" and deal with them in the "most ruthless manner," Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Thursday.

Security forces have been given sweeping powers under a state of emergency declared on Tuesday and those resorting to violence would be shot dead and their bodies disposed of without inquests, he warned.

Mr Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister under President Ranasinghe Premadasa, said the government would have to deal with "terrorists even more severely than in 1971."

He was referring to a youth insurrection by the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) which was put down by the government in 1971 with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

The government imposed emergency laws Tuesday amid reports that JVP activists were planning a wave of strikes across the country in a bid to seize power.

"After a lot of consideration and opportunity given to the terrorists (to talk to the government), we have decided to meet them head on. We have to deal with the terrorists in the most ruthless manner.

"Our people cannot live in fear forever. They must have peace if they are to survive," Mr Wijeratne said.

"We have taken a hard line. There is no question about that. But if they (the JVP) want to they can still come and talk to the president," he told Western correspondents here.

He said security forces and police have been given "full powers," including indemnity against prosecution for their acts against anti-government rebels. [passage omitted]

'Massive Rally' in Kalmunai Supports PKF

BK2306101789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] There has been another massive rally in the eastern region of Sri Lanka in protest against President Premadasa's call for an early withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF]. At Kalmunai—a Muslim-dominated area—thousands of people, both Muslims and Tamils, turned out to participate in the protest rally last evening. Top leaders of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], among others, addressed the rally and warned the people of dangerous consequences if the PKF is withdrawn now.

Elsewhere in the island, security forces have detained more than 60 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] rebels during the last 24 hours. Security officials have been given wide power to detain people without trial under the state of emergency reimposed on Tuesday [20 June].

The Army commander in an address over radio and television has warned that the forces will deal firmly with the people who are trying to disrupt essential services. The detention and warning comes amidst a JVP-sponsored transport strike, which has brought almost all activities in the island to a halt. Railway employees yesterday joined the over 50,000 bus workers in observing the strike, paralyzing the skeleton transport services, which were being maintained under armed escort. The island government has warned the striking road transport employees to return to work by Monday or lose their jobs.

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